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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you agree with the U.S. Labor report that further increasing the minimum wage will hurt the local economy?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Taste of Hawaii

Former congressman Andrew Salas and his business partner David Phan are bringing the taste of Hawaii to Saipan.

BUSINESS...Page 21

Field Narrows

Republican Rudy Giuliani and Democrat John Edwards have dropped out of the U.S. presidential race.

NATION...Page 23

Wealthy List

Madonna is the richest woman in music.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 31

Vent your security gripes on TSA blog

ON THE NET

http://www.tsa.gov/blog

By DAN CATERINICCHIA
AP BUSINESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Frustrated by long airport-security lines? Certain those screeners aren't paying attention? Wondering why your grandma always gets frisked?

The federal government wants to hear—or at least read—your gripes at the "Evolution of Security" blog the

See VENT on Page 4

Federalization bill now heads to full US Senate

"I applaud today's passage of H.R. 3079 by the Senate [committee]...moving Congress one step closer to safeguarding our nation's westernmost border from terrorism, establishing an immigration policy consistent with the U.S., and stimulating further economic development in the Marianas."

—House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs chair Donna Christensen (D-VI)

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The bill federalizing local immigration moved out of committee yesterday and is ready for action by the full U.S. Senate.

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Japan Airlines International Co., Ltd. vice president and associated business president Tetsuya Baba and United Micronesia Development Association president and CEO Russell K. Snow Jr. shake hands while UMDA's chairman of the board Jose R. Lifoifoi looks on, after signing the documents formalizing the transfer of ownership of Hotel Nikko Saipan Inc. to UMDA at the UMDA's corporate office at the Marina Heights Business Park in Puerto Rico yesterday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

UMDA to continue JAL legacy

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

United Micronesia Development Association, Inc. said it wants to continue the legacy of Japan Airlines in the Commonwealth as it finally took ownership of Hotel Nikko Saipan, Inc. during the close of transaction yesterday at the Marina Heights Business Park in Puerto Rico.

Although terms of the sale

See UMDA on Page 4

NMI fails to tap $54.7M in CIP funds

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The cash-strapped Commonwealth government has over $50 million in grant funds that it has left sitting with the U.S. government, according to the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Cohen

David B. Cohen, deputy assistant secretary for insular affairs, said the

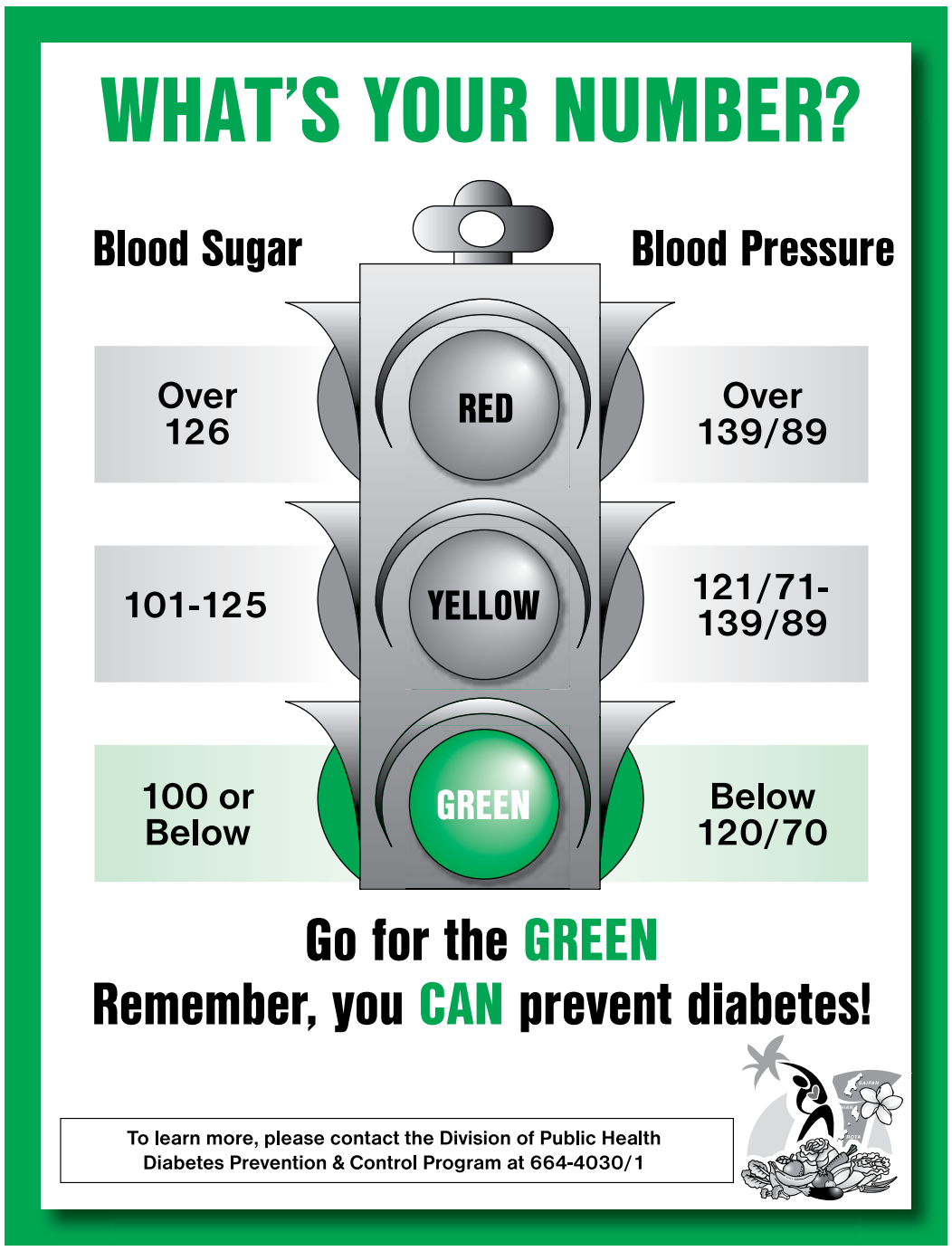
See NMI on Page 4

CNMI govt eyes suit vs Retirement Fund. **PAGE 3**

Students press Legislature on anti-cruelty bill. **PAGE 6**

Local

Power rates regulations near expiration



By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Legislative leaders will meet with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to discuss the power rates.

CUC executive director Anthony C. Guerrero requested the meeting in view of the nearing expiration of regulations, which allowed CUC to adjust power rates depending on the cost of fuel.

The emergency regulations, adopted on Nov. 2, 2007, will expire on March 1, 2007. Then, residential power rates will revert back to their level in October 2007, when the cost of electricity was reduced by law to 17.6 cents per kWh.

"The effect of a return to the October 2007 residential rate will be devastating, as the CUC has no ability to pay for fuel," Guerrero said.

He said he hopes the discussion will help the lawmakers "make fully informed decisions" about CUC.

The meeting will be held at 10:30am Friday, Feb. 1, 2008, at the CUC office. Invited to the meeting are Senate President Pete P. Reyes, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, and the chairmen of the House and Senate committees on public utilities, transportation and communications.

In October 2007, the Legislature overrode a governor's veto and reduced residential power rates to 17.6 cents per kWh for the first 1,000 kWh.

The following month, CUC promulgated regulations that allowed CUC to charge customers for the full cost of power generation fuel. Since the regulations were adopted on an emergency basis, they are effective for 120 days only. Unless CUC promulgates the regulations as permanent, they will expire on March 1, 2008.

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HPU club alumni wants to keep scholarship alive

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
Rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Hawaii Pacific University Alumni chapter of the CNMI and Guam are trying to find ways of keeping the Marians Islands Scholarship fund running.

Jason Huang, founder of the Mariana Islands Club in HPU, said that club alumni plan to work with the Chamorro Club by continuing with the scholarship program he created years back.

The scholarship was created to encourage incoming college students from the Mariana Islands to attend HPU.

The Mariana Islands Club is no longer in existence as it has been on hiatus for a long time. A new club of students from the CNMI called the Chamorro Club was later formed and it has pretty much taken over the Mariana Islands Club.

The members of the club have been asked to actively pursue contributions within the club and from supporters of the Mariana Islands in coordination with the Office of Development.

The goal is to grow the fund to a minimum of $10,000. Huang said when he graduated from the school, the club had less than that, so he is seeking donation from the community to keep it alive.

According to the HPU Office of Development & Alumni Relations, if the fund does not reach $10,000 by its due date, the university will award the

See HPU on Page 4

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NMI govt eyes suit vs Retirement Fund

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fitial administration is mulling a lawsuit against the NMI Retirement Fund over the suspension of pension benefits to new retirees.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has instructed the Attorney General's Office to investigate the Fund's action and take legal action against the pension agency, according to press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr.

"We are convinced that it is illegal for the Retirement Fund to refuse to process benefits for new retirees," Reyes said. "It is a breach of contract between the government employees and the Fund. The employees fulfilled their part of the bargain by paying contributions. They should not be penalized for something they have no control over."

On Nov. 20, 2007, the Fund board of trustees adopted a resolution to stop processing members' benefits. The reason: the government's continued failure to remit full contributions to the Fund and the passage of certain laws deemed damaging to the pension program.

Reyes questioned the Fund's motive, saying this was not the first time that the government has failed to pay contributions to the pension program.

"We wonder if the suspension might be politically motivated," he said.

But Reyes also admitted that the trustees may just be trying to protect itself from personal liability. Trustees have a fiduciary duty to keep the Fund solvent. The government's non-payment of contributions is placing the pension program in danger of insolvency.

"The problem is, the government made the retirement program so generous that it cannot afford to fund it," Reyes said.

Since 2001, the central government has failed to pay full employer contributions to the Fund. From March 2006 through the end of FY 2007, no employer contributions were paid at all.

In addition to incomplete contribution payments, the government has failed to remit amounts earmarked for the Fund.

The government has failed to remit biweekly payments of $500,000 toward reducing the amount owed in employer contributions, as agreed upon by the Fund and the government. The payments were supposed to have begun on Jan. 13, 2006.

The Fund also has been receiving incomplete payments for the early retirement bonus and for the special benefit for past governors and lieutenant governors.

Recently, the Legislature, by overriding the governor's veto, enacted a law allowing Fund members with 15 years of service to withdraw their retirement contribution with interest. The Fund said this will force the agency to liquidate assets to meet the cash demand resulting from the new law.

Last week, the governor signed into law a bill setting the government retirement contribution rate at 18 percent of the employees' salaries. This rate represents half of the actuary-recommended rate of 36.7 percent for the defined benefit plan.

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JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

FHB DONATION
First Hawaiian Bank Saipan Area Manager (Gualo Rai branch) Juan S. N. Lizama, right, hands over the check donation worth $5,706 to CNMI Education Commissioner David Borja in front of the FHB Gualo Rai branch at the Gualo Rai commercial center on Middle Road yesterday morning. The contribution was raised from FHB's One Team Education Fund Program for the CNMI Public School System.

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CUSTOMER CLASSIFICATIONS		RATES PER KILOWATT-HOUR (kWh)		
	MONTHLY CUSTOMER CHARGES (FIXED)	ELECTRIC NON-FUEL RATES (FIXED)	ELECTRIC FUEL RATES (FLUCTUATES)	TOTAL RATES PER kWh
RESIDENTIAL	$ 3.50			
First 1,000 KWh		Zero	$ 0.253	$ 0.253
Over 1,000 kWh		$ 0.044	0.253	0.297
COMMERCIAL (All kWh Billed)	$ 7.67	$ 0.086	$ 0.253	$ 0.339
GOVERNMENT (All kWh Billed)	$ 7.67	$ 0.091	$ 0.253	$ 0.344
NON-CONFORMING LOAD (All kWh Billed)	$ 56.00	$ 0.222	$ 0.253	$ 0.475

HISTORY OF ELECTRIC FUEL RATES:

JANUARY 2007	$ 0.196	SEPTEMBER 2007	$ 0.228
FEBRUARY 2007	$ 0.188	OCTOBER 2007 RES	$ 0.176
MARCH 2007	$ 0.188	OCTOBER 2007	$ 0.228
APRIL 2007	$ 0.191	NOVEMBER 2007	$ 0.258
MAY 2007	$ 0.222	DECEMBER 2007	$ 0.258
JUNE 2007	$ 0.221	JANUARY 2008	$ 0.258
JULY 2007	$ 0.223		
AUGUST 2007	$ 0.223		

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ISLA FINANCIAL SERVICES

SaipanCell opens full service outlet at MITA Travel

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

SaipanCell Communications will formally open its full service outlet at MITA Travel Beach Road Garapan today.

The company's retail operations manager Paulina A. Johnson said the outlet is actually in partnership with MITA Travel owner Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero and is an improvement from the previous retail outlet that used to operate in the location.

"This time we will be opening a full-on service where you can activate, make your payment, and just about everything that can be done in SaipanCell's existing outlets along Middle Road and at Chalan Kanoa," she said.

Johnson said the new outlet would make it easier for SaipanCell customers in Garapan to transact their business closer to home.

"It's tough for people. Gas is expensive. Location wise we try to make it convenient for our customers. Everything is also in that location—your travel agent, payment for American Express, Western Union, and now SaipanCell—it can be all done at one time," she said.

Prepaid sales assistant James K. Lee echoed Johnson comments and said SaipanCell is opening the new outlet for its loyal patrons.

"We're here for the customers. We try to make it convenient for them anyway we can. We want an outlet there for the customers. We're there for the customers," he said.

Aside from the grand opening of the SaipanCell full-on service at its Beach Road Garapan location, MITA Travel will also be named authorized wholesaler of all of SaipanCell's pre-paid cards today.

MARK RABAGO

SaipanCell Communications retail operations manager Paulina A. Johnson and prepaid sales assistant James K. Lee pose with other employees at the company's main office along Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

VENT

From Page 1

Transportation Security Administration introduced Wednesday. And it promises those complaints and suggestions won't vanish into thin air.

The blog, at http://www.tsa.gov/blog, is getting a rather "blah" response from aviation analysts and passengers advocates who say it will do little to improve process or perception.

"This will just make it easier for them to receive complaints for them to ignore in the name of national security," said David Stempler, president of the Air Travelers Association.

In the blog's initial post, TSA Administrator Kip Hawley said the goal is to provide a forum for the agency to explain why travelers must go through certain steps at checkpoints since interaction at airports is often harried and halted, resulting in "feedback and venting ... circulating among passengers with no real opportunity for us to learn from you or vice versa."

"We will incorporate what we learn in this forum in our checkpoint process evolution," Hawley wrote. "Our postings from the public will be reviewed to remove the destructive, but not touch the critical or cranky."

Terry Trippler, a Minneapolis-based airline expert, applauded the idea but said TSA "was in the right church, just not the right pew yet."

And that church could become anything but sacred. Trippler said he envisions the blog quickly degenerating into an online vacuum where a handful of habitual complainers force TSA officials to respond to them, while other self-appointed security "experts" pontificate on the best ways to improve the process.

HPU

From Page 2

funds in the account on an annual basis until the fund is depleted.

It stated further that, "if in the judgment of the trustees of Hawaii Pacific University it becomes impossible or impractical to accomplish the purposes of this gift, the income or principal, or both, may be used for scholarships in such manner as determined by the Trustees of Hawaii Pacific University."

According to Kris Smith of the HPU Alumni relations, because the deadline to raise the $10,000 was in June 2006, it was extended as the alumni of the HPU Marianas Club were interested in keeping the scholarship alive.

However, "once the goal of $10,000 is reached, it would take a year before the first scholarship could be awarded," Smith said.

Huang said he wants the high school seniors of all CNMI and Guam schools to know there is a scholarship available for them.

"I encourage them to apply, especially when times are hard. I'm hoping whoever gets awarded this scholarship to get a good education and come back home to apply their knowledge to help the folks back home. Also, encourage all HPU alumni to come and join us [in raising the funds needed to keep it]," Huang said.

UMDA

From Page 1

were not disclosed, 1,920 shares of Hotel Nikko were seen transferred to UMDA.

The company's president and chief executive officer Russell K. Snow Jr. said the transaction cost is confidential.

Signing for UMDA was chairman of the board Jose R. Lifoifoi, while signing for the previous owners of Hotel Nikko was JAL Hotel Co., Ltd. executive officer/BVL president Akira Yamazaki.

"We're very honored to take over the responsibilities of Hotel Nikko [Saipan] in our new role as the owner of the hotel. We would like to continue with the legacy that JAL and Hotel Nikko have started and their long investment in Micronesia. We will continue their tradition in supporting Micronesia, in supporting the Commonwealth, and also in supporting Saipan with new tourist activity and more opportunities to improve our economy," said Snow after the signing of the documents.

UMDA will host an opening ceremony today at the hotel, which will be renamed Palms Resort Saipan.

Tetsuya Baba, Japan Airlines International Co. Ltd. vice president for associated business, thanked the Northern Marianas for being a great host during the two decades that the company operated the San Roque hotel.

"I would like to thank you everyone. We had the business for over 20 years in the CNMI. We extend our utmost gratitude to the CNMI people, to the government, and to its tourism industry," he said.

"We are very pleased to hand over the management of Hotel Nikko Saipan, Tropical Laundry, and the linen supply [company] to UMDA. They are expanding their business well and they promised that they will keep our legacy. I'm very pleased," added Baba.

Also present during the turnover ceremony were UMDA director of asset management and CFO Hiroyuki Saito, corporate secretary Winnie Lee, JAL Hotel's corporate planning manager Jo Sato, Daiwa Securities SMBC Co., Ltd. Strategic Advisory Dep.(M&A) general manager Hiroaki Ota, Strategic Advisory Dep.(M&A) senior analysis Aya Yamane, Strategic Advisory Dep.(M&A) senior analysis Koji Nakamura, as well as Hotel Nikko vice president and general manager Hideo Nishigori.

The hotel premises include a large water park, a wedding chapel facility, restaurants, banquet rooms, tennis courts, racquetball courts, and a botanical garden. The purchase also includes nearby staff residences (PauPau Terrace), dormitories, and interest in Tropical Laundry & Linen Supply, Co., Ltd.

UMDA is a CNMI corporation owned by regional individual and corporate shareholders, including the governments of the CNMI, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

In an earlier report, UMDA said it was still deliberating which among world-class hoteliers Sheraton, Hilton, Marriott, and Outrigger it will choose to manage the hotel.

NMI

From Page 1

federal government had been pressing the CNMI government for quite some time to clear its backlog of the funds for capital improvement projects.

As of Thursday, Jan. 24, 2008, the unspent balance of CIP funds was $57.4 million.

"These funds could provide a big boost to the CNMI economy and help address its serious infrastructure problems," said Cohen, whose resignation becomes effective today (Washington, DC time).

To help the CNMI get capital improvement projects moving, DOI's Office of Insular Affairs has allowed the use of CIP funds to partially pay for the salary of local CIP administrator Vicky Villagomez.

It had been OIA's practice to fund only CNMI government contractors, rather than regular government employees. In recent years, CIP funds were allowed to be used to fund contract positions, including project managers for the three main islands and certain employees working to improve the water system.

With Villagomez, OIA is only funding the portion of her work that relates to capital improvement projects.

"One of our main objectives in funding such positions is to ensure that the CNMI has the capacity to keep CIP projects progressing in a timely fashion. If we don't see significant improvement on that score in the coming year, OIA will likely reevaluate its willingness to provide financial support for these positions," Cohen said.

Last month, OIA director Nikolao Pula approved a new $10-million grant for capital improvement projects in the CNMI.

The grant funds include $3.7 million for the Puerto Rico dump closure, $1.7 million for the Kagman wastewater treatment plant project, and $2.3 million for Saipan water infrastructure projects.

Some $1.285 million each is also provided for the Tinian landfill and for Rota's ecotourism program.

FEDERALIZATION

From Page 1

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported out House bill 3079 as passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in December 2007.

H.R. 3079 awaits Senate action as part of S. 2483, an omnibus bill made up of some 50 House-approved bills.

A committee source said the committee's action was a procedural step. "The vehicle to enact the CNMI reform language is S. 2483, but the action today gets the Committee formally on record in support of H.R. 3079, and will ease floor consideration—other senators are less likely to object if they see that the entire Energy Committee supports the bill," the source said. He refused to be named because he is not authorized to speak to the press.

S. 2483 is expected to pass in the next few weeks, he added.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the governor is "disheartened and disappointed" by the latest development on the CNMI immigration bill.

"If this bill passed into law, it would be the worst federal legislation for the CNMI. It would result in the complete devastation of the local economy," Reyes said.

Rep. Donna Christensen, the bill's sponsor, welcomed passage of H.R. 3079 by the Senate committee. She said the committee's action moved "Congress one step closer to safeguarding our nation's westernmost border from terrorism, establishing an immigration policy consistent with the U.S., and stimulating further economic development in the Marianas."

She also took a swipe at the bill's critics. "In recent weeks, opponents of this effort have conducted a campaign of misinformation—they fail to recognize that the current system is flawed. This bill will not only provide for CNMI representation in the House of Representatives, but also a stable framework for a more prosperous CNMI," Christensen said.

Guam Rep. Madeleine Bordallo also applauded the Senate committee's passage of the bill.

She said the committee's action affirms the bipartisan, bicameral support for H.R. 3079, including amendments to the bill that call for a unified visa waiver program for Guam and the CNMI with an authorized stay period of 45 days and a path to add participating countries in the future. The bill also grants the CNMI and Guam exemptions from national caps on temporary work visas.

"I hope the bill will reach the Senate floor early this year. I continue to support the bill as passed by the House," said Bordallo.

During her Congressional Address delivered last night in front of the 29th Guam Legislature, Bordallo described H.R. 3079 as "another legislative achievement in the House that will lead to a new partnership with our friends in the Northern Marianas for our visitor industry."

"For the first time, Guam and the CNMI would have a regional visa waiver program based on the Guam-only visa waiver program and extending from 15 to 45 days the length of stay for visitors. This provision has the potential to make our visitor product more competitive," she said.

Title VII of the omnibus package, S. 2483, contains the exact text of H.R. 3079 as passed by the House on Dec. 12, 2007, and as approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee yesterday.

The Senate adopted a unanimous consent agreement governing debate on S. 2483 before it adjourned in December. That agreement limits the number of amendments that may be offered on the Senate floor to five amendments and those amendments are expected to address aspects apart from the CNMI title.

The Senate majority leader will determine when S. 2483 can be brought to the floor for consideration. The Senate remains focused this week on an economic stimulus package.

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Students press Legislature on anti-cruelty bill

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The first batch of letters from students of William S. Reyes Elementary School pressing lawmakers to enact an anti-animal cruelty bill was hand-delivered to the Legislature Wednesday.

The students, according WSR sixth grade teacher Phyllis Ain, made really good arguments in their letters.

"Not only were they concerned about the well-being of the animals, but they were really concerned about how the absence of the anti-animal cruelty law would effect tourism in the CNMI," Ain said.

One of the letters was from sixth grader Aprilleen Sablan to Senate President Pete Reyes, where she stated that an anti-animal cruelty law will not only prevent animals from being neglected, abandoned, and injured but would help "the CNMI become an even more beautiful place" and not scare off tourists.

She added in her letter that, "A few nights ago you [Reyes] said that you weren't going to pass the law because the CNMI has no budget. It doesn't really matter if the CNMI has a budget or not. The law wouldn't need that much money."

Ain said the students didn't really understand why the law was not being passed because of "no money."

"They didn't understand what that had to do with passing the law that would just punish people who would hurt animals. I said I didn't know and that they should ask the people who are responsible; and that's what they did," Ain said.

She said she understands that CNMI lawmakers have priorities. "And I respect their priorities. But the pie is not just one size. There are a lot of segments to that pie. And this is an issue the community is obviously concerned about, and it's growing."

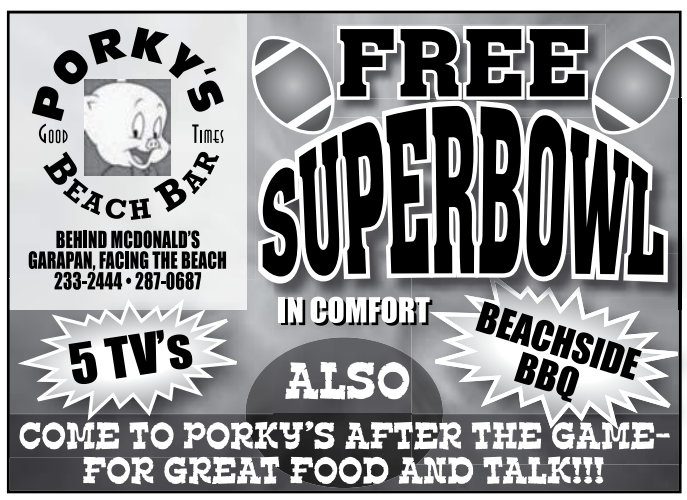
The second batch of student letters to the Legislature will be sent out today.

Dan Anderson, who hand-delivered the first batch of 31 letters to the Senate president, said that, from what he read, the students have valid questions.

"They [students] wanted to know why they [lawmakers] couldn't pass the law and why they couldn't pass the budget," Anderson said.

Pets Assistance and Welfare Services president Katie Busenkell said, "The reports of pet-theft and rampant animal abuse that is tolerated in Saipan is appalling. It is absolutely disgraceful that on American soil, it is legal to beat and or torture an animal to death."

She urged people to "write your legislators and urge them to pass the PAWS Animal Protection Act. It is the foundation to some much needed change in the way animals are treated on Saipan."



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Applicants sought for rural infra loans, grants

WASHINGTON D.C.—The USDA Rural Development is inviting applications for six programs to help small towns and rural residents finance infrastructure improvements.

"These loans, grants and loan/grant combinations will help communities provide essential services and maintain the infrastructure necessary for businesses and residents to enjoy a high quality of life in rural areas," said USDA Undersecretary Thomas C. Dorr said.

The six programs under which applications are being accepted are:

- Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loan and Grant Program
- Public Television Digital Conversion Grant Program
- Community Connect Grant Program
- High Energy Cost Grant Program
- Revolving Fund Grant Program
- Household Water Well Grant Program

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loan and Grant program was created to improve access to education and medical services through the use of technology.

The Digital Public Television grant program provides funding to help rural public televisions stations install the digital transmission equipment that must be in place by Feb. 17, 2009. Digital Public TV grants also may be used for engineering and environmental studies associated with the transition to digital television.

The Community Connect Grant Program provides grants to telecommunications providers and municipalities to finance the installation of broadband service in rural communities where broadband is least likely to be available.

The High Energy Cost Grant Program provides grants for the acquisition, construction or improvement of energy generation, transmission or distribution facilities in communities where the average residential cost for home energy exceeds 275 percent of the national average.

The Revolving Fund Grant Program provides funds to nonprofit entities for loans to finance predevelopment costs for water and wastewater projects, or for short-term capital projects that are not part of the regular operation and maintenance of current water systems.

The Household Water Well System Grant Program helps individuals finance the cost of household water wells. Funds can be used to upgrade or replace water well systems and to increase the awareness of substandard drinking water systems in communities.

Application Deadline

- Public TV Digital Conversion Grant Program—March 28, 2008
- Community Connect Grant Program—March 28, 2008
- High Cost Energy Program—March 28, 2008
- Revolving Fund Grant Program—March 28, 2008
- Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loan & Grant Program—April 14, 2008
- Household Water Well Grant Program—May 31, 2008

For further details about eligibility rules and application procedures, see the January 28, 2008, Federal Register.

Rural Development has invested nearly $91 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov. ***(USDA)***

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$60.00 per person for CATH members*
Thursday, February 14th
6:00pm - 10:00pm

Kili Cafe & Terrace
Valentine's Dinner Buffet
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$35.00 per person for CATH members*
Thursday, February 14th
6:00pm - 10:00pm

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Giovanni's
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Set Menu is available from February 20th till March 21st

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9 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on nine Saipan beaches and warns the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these sites for the next two days hours.

The affected sites are DPW Channel, S. Puerto Rico Dump, American Memorial Park, Hafa Adai Drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach Drainage, Civic Center Beach, Sugar Dock, and San Antonio Lift Station.

Samples collected from these locations were found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

The division also tested and cleared the waters of Managaha this week.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainages every Wednesday. This week it analyzed samples of drainage water from 38 sites.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Illegal fishing

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's help for information on individual(s) involved in illegal fishing at the Bird Island Sanctuary (includes Bird Island and the Grotto). Attached are photos taken at the Grotto site by local divers. These photos show evidence of mono filament fishing line, hooks and primitive sinkers, used for fishing.

Crime Stoppers would like to remind the community that it is against the law to fish in sanctuaries. It is also illegal to use fishing devises, such as explosives, poisons (cyanide, bleach, Clorox, derris, saponin), electric shocking devices, scuba spear fishing, hookah, drag net/beach seine, trap net, surround net and gill net.

Anyone having information about this crime may call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to $1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Caller ID is not used. All calls remain anonymous.

Free training on new zoning law

The Zoning Office is urging owners to check if their existing businesses, structures, or signs are in compliance with the new law. If they are not in compliance, owners may submit a request to verify that their "nonconforming use" was in existence on Feb. 1 when the law goes into effect. However, this is only a voluntary application; it is not required.

Also, owners do not have to submit this information before Feb. 1, said Zoning Administrator Steve Tilley.

The Zoning Office will give another public training session on the new Saipan Zoning Law. A special invitation is extended to those who plan to: build a new commercial or residential structure; repair or expand an existing structure; move a business into a new or existing building; maintain an existing sign or make a new one; continue or start an adult business; subdivide property; start a home business; or continue operating or maintaining a nonconforming building, or sign.

The training is free and no pre-registration is required. It will be held at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2008. Session 1 is from 8:30am to 11:30am; session 2 is from 1:30pm to 4:30pm (same information as Session 1).

The Zoning Office in DanDan will be closed on that day as Zoning staff will be at the Multi-Purpose Center to answer questions and to take permit applications.

Attendees should bring a copy of the law to the training session for reference. Copies of the law and maps can be downloaded from www.zoning.gov.mp. The Zoning Office also has copies for sale for $10.00 at the 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan. Call 234-9663/7 for more information.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 01, 2001

Budget woes disrupt operations

Failure by the House of Representatives and the Senate to hammer out a budget deal is already taking its toll on government operations, resulting in disruptions on the delivery of basic public services like education, health and public safety. Budget problems faced by the administration of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio pose serious concerns the government's prompt and effective delivery of services since major projects and programs remain unfunded, according to Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes.

Funding worries besiege museum

Dispelling rumors of a museum shutdown amid the absence of a stable funding source, Museum of History and Culture Board Chair Herman T. Guerrero is determined to go through all proper lengths to nurse CNMI's rich archaeological repository back to health. Carrying an air of optimism, Guerrero is hopeful help will be underway, following a request he submitted to government leaders, calling for the restoration of the museum's 15 percent budget cut, crucial to the sustenance of the agency's operations and projects.

CUC to cut power of 40 gov't offices

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday started sending out disconnection notices to more than 40 government agencies due to the government's failure to settle utility debts amounting to over $12 million. Citing the strain caused by CUC financial setback and operational costs, CUC Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez underscored that government offices won't receive special treatment and utilities services will be disconnected should they continuously refuse to recognize the notices.

February 01, 2002

To accept asylum seekers or not, the AG will decide

Cautious responses made by lawmakers on the asylum issue seem to indicate that, despite the relative independence of the CNMI from the federal Immigration and Naturalization Services, the applicability of the asylum treaty that was signed by the United States would automatically extend to its territories, including the CNMI. House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider said that, on cursory review, the preamble of the CNMI Constitution is clear on the matter: the U.S. Constitution and treaties entered into by the U.S. government apply to the Commonwealth.

FAA gives 3 CNMI airports good grades

The Federal Aviation Administration has given all three international airports in the Northern Marianas positive ratings, based on the facilities' compliance with federally-mandated security and safety regulations. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said FAA Honolulu Airport District Office Manager Ron Simpson conducted an inspection of the Saipan, Tinian, and Rota international airports last week.

EMO recovers 500-lbs bomb

A 500-pound bomb, said to be carried by a fighter plane during the World War II, was recovered by emergency response teams at a quarry site near the Saipan International Airport. Officials believe the discovery of the bomb prevented what could have been a huge devastation caused by a possible explosion.

February 01, 2003

NMC faculty planning to form union

Some of the 80-member faculty staff at the Northern Marianas College are planning to form a union in their efforts to protect their ranks from any adverse actions in the future. Vince Riley, NMC faculty president, confirmed yesterday that some of them have been discussing the issue, adding that others have expressed concerns about their security of tenure following the Sept. 24, 2002 termination of 11 personnel.

CHC extends agencies' contracts for 4th time

For the fourth time, the Department of Public Health has extended its contracts with the three existing agencies that provide nursing staff to the Commonwealth Health Center. DPH Secretary James U. Hofschneider said yesterday that the contracts of the three agencies-Paras Enterprises, SEAS Inc., and Marianas Health Services-will be extended up to May 31, 2003, pending negotiations for new contracts.

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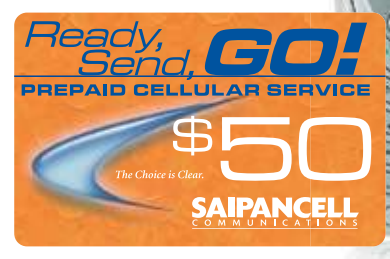

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

A Potemkin election

Dmitri Medvedev, who has been designated by Vladimir Putin to win Russia's presidential election March 2, polled at 80 percent in a recent survey, compared with 1 percent for the only opposition candidate then in the running, former Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov. But like the former Soviet regime it increasingly resembles, Mr. Putin's Kremlin is leaving nothing to chance. On Sunday, Mr. Kasyanov was excluded from the presidential ballot, on the pretext that thousands of the 2 million signatures he had gathered in support of his registration were fraudulent.

The next day Moscow announced ground rules for international election observers that virtually ensured that credible organizations such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe will not take part—or will not be able to judge the fairness of the election if they do. For good measure, Mr. Medvedev announced this week that he will not participate in any election debates, thereby ensuring that no Russian will see him between now and March in a context not entirely controlled and scripted by the regime.

The most interesting aspect of this heavy-handed strategy is that it is entirely unnecessary. Thanks to the Kremlin's control of television, its relentless propaganda and Russia's oil-fueled economic boom, a large majority of Russians are more than happy to vote for Mr. Medvedev, or anyone else Mr. Putin might point to. Mr. Putin could have allowed Mr. Kasyanov, former chess champion Garry Kasparov and other opposition figures to run, allowed in thousands of international observers, ordered Mr. Medvedev to participate in televised debates—and still his candidate would have won handily. In that case he could have claimed to have held a democratic election, and many in Europe and around the world would have agreed.

Yet Mr. Putin insists on staging a Potemkin vote that no serious observer outside of Russia can regard as credible—an exercise that resembles the ostentatiously fake elections that Soviet satellite regimes used to hold in places such as East Germany, where Mr. Putin served as a KGB agent. Like those governments, Mr. Putin evidently prefers to incur the scorn of Western democrats than allow someone such as Mr. Kasyanov to speak freely even for a few minutes on Russian state television—something Mr. Kasyanov would have been allowed to do had his candidacy been registered. Mr. Putin would rather have the OSCE boycott the election than hold a free and fair vote whose exact outcome could not be planned in advance.

Mr. Putin's embrace of the Soviet political model reveals his growing contempt for Western opinion and his lack of interest in maintaining cooperative relations with the European Union and the United States. It also shows that Russia's political system, as Mr. Kasyanov put it, "as in the U.S.S.R. will not respond to change either from inside, or from outside." No wonder that Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet Union's last leader, felt moved to speak out. "Something wrong is going on with our elections," he told the Interfax agency. But it's not only elections: In fact, the system that Mr. Gorbachev took apart is being meticulously reconstructed

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Give veterans what they deserve: an education

By FINN M.W. CASPERSEN
Special to The Baltimore Sun

Caspersen, chairman of the board of trustees of the Hodson Trust, also is chairman and CEO of a private management firm and chairman of the Harvard Law School Dean's Advisory Board.

After serving in the Navy in World War II, Marylander Charles Schelberg was able to attend Washington College in Chestertown, Md., thanks to the GI Bill, which covered all his costs. Schelberg, who hailed from a working-class family of Chesapeake Bay watermen, was the first in his family to attend college and earned an economics degree that led to a successful career in community banking.

There were millions of Charles Schelbergs after World War II, and the individual success of each one fed the cumulative success of a nation that shrugged off the economic malaise of the Great Depression and stoked the economic engines of the world's most vibrant economy. America took care of its deserving warriors, and the nation benefited greatly.

When today's military veterans return home from their nightmarish tours of combat duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, many nurture dreams of earning a college degree, just as many of their grandparents did after serving in World War II.

Unfortunately, the nation is not responding to their service as it did in Charles Schelberg's day.

Two of Schelberg's grandsons have answered their country's call. Charles did so after the attack on Pearl Harbor; Matthew and James Schelberg did so after the attacks of 9/11. The brothers both served as Marines in Iraq's Anbar province. They are back home now, and both are pursuing college degrees—under circumstances that underscore the educational challenges facing contemporary veterans.

Today's combat veterans encounter a GI Bill whose stinginess would have been unimaginable to their grandparents. It is sad to chart how far it has fallen and how inadequate are its benefits. Gone are the glory days of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (the formal name of the GI Bill), which enabled millions of servicemen back from World War II to enter the hitherto largely inaccessible world of higher education. The GI Bill helped make the "Greatest Generation" great, paving the way for prosperity and the postwar boom years and permanently lowering the barriers to American higher education. Nearly 8 million veterans filled the nation's classrooms thanks to its benefits.

Yes, the GI Bill still exists, although in a different form now known as the "Montgomery GI Bill," and it still offers education benefits. But today's version makes education benefits a voluntary, contributory program; to receive any tuition benefits from Uncle Sam, you must have agreed in advance to a monthly deduction from your meager paycheck. Worse yet, the benefit is just a fraction of what is needed to meet today's tuition costs. Reservists who have returned from the battlefield earn even less than enlisted soldiers.

By contrast, the grandparents of today's veterans attended college free of tuition payments and free of the burdensome tuition-generated debt that most of today's veterans will shoulder.

While some in Washington have sought to right this wrong by restoring a measure of the benefits of the original GI Bill, efforts have so far been roadblocked in Congress.

This leads us back to Matthew and James Schelberg. Matt attends Pennsylvania's Bucknell University, where his veteran benefits cover only a small part of his educational expenses. He will accumulate an estimated $60,000 in student-loan debt by the time he completes his undergraduate degree, a heavy burden for a young man who just fought for our flag in one of the toughest trouble spots in the world.

James attends his grandfather's alma mater, Washington College, and his situation illustrates both the problem of a diminished GI Bill and the nascent effort to compensate for its shortcomings. Where government has failed to act, the private sector is setting the example of how America's veterans deserve to be welcomed home.

James is one of the first recipients of a veterans scholarship program created by the Hodson Trust. The program enables Maryland veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts to attend one of the four Maryland colleges the trust has long supported: the Johns Hopkins University, Hood College, St. John's College and Washington College. The scholarship covers all of James' costs of tuition, room and board, books and other expenses not covered by veterans' benefits or institutional aid. While his brother faces years of debt repayment, James' education is covered in full.

Initiatives similar to the Hodson Trust scholarships are emerging across the United States. More must be encouraged. But the private sector alone cannot compensate for what the federal government has failed to do. The nation must meet its moral obligation to all the young men and women who have risked their lives in defense of our country's ideals.

We were able to meet the higher education needs of Matt and James' grandfather and millions like him, and society as a whole was the better for it. Today's returning soldiers merit the same.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Accepting reality

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed's column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at SaipanBlog.com and TropicalEd.com.

I have never tried to deter anyone from choosing dreams over reality. And, more to the point, I have never tried to deter anyone, or any entity, in the CNMI from choosing wishful thinking over genuine economic analysis. I am not an economic missionary. I don't want to change anyone's mind about anything. I don't want to change anyone's behavior. After all, when nobodies want to be somebodies, they wind up being busybodies, and that's not my gig.

My gig is that I perform economic analysis for serious people who want that kind of work, and these activities take place in quiet, not in public.

And so the public discourse and the private one are, and always will be, two different things here.

The CNNI seems blind to this fact, but I can assure you that the outside world, looking in, always makes the same comment: The electorate, and, hence, economic policy, is tied to local government jobs, not private sector jobs. This is the conceptual soil from which all else grows. That's just the character of the place. It's not "good" or "bad," it just is what it is, and it creates predictable (predictable to my pals and I, at least) results.

So I have no emotional stake in the CNMI's behavior one way or the other, just as I have no feelings about the fact that a rock is a rock, and a fish is a fish. I know the characteristics of a rock. I know the characteristics of a fish. I can use this grasp of reality to anticipate the behavior of both things in various contexts.

Only a fuzzy-thinker would, by contrast, ignore those characteristics, and start dreaming about how much better life would be if rocks were good to eat and fish could pound in a tent peg.

Do you want to lecture a fish on how it should be a rock? Go ahead. Talk to one. Write to one. Whine. Get angry. Get sanctimonious. Get righteous. Tell the fish that you are so smart that you should dictate how they should change, because you have a superior vision in life, and your lofty goals can only come true, Kumbaya, if fish become igneous hunks of stone.

At the end of it all, the fish would still be fish. And you would be one very frustrated person with no credibility in polite circles.

"How are you today, Mr. Dreamer?"

"Oh, not so good. I am angry at the fish today."

"Angry at the fish? For what?"

"For being fish. It is so selfish of them."

If you want to enjoy the Year of the Rat, and prosper as well, then you might want to consider accepting things, the CNMI included, for what they are. Enjoy the good parts of the CNMI, because there are so many of them: the friendly people, the exotic mix of cultures, the natural beauty, the good road system, the golf courses, the great restaurants, the diving, the cheap cost of housing, and the security of the U.S. flag. That is a lot to enjoy. It's far more than the average place in the world has to offer. Far more!

But if you want to make yourself miserable, angry, frustrated, and quite possibly broke, then get ensnared into the wishful thinking habit, which believes, mistakenly, that the essential nature of economic policy in the CNMI will change. It won't change. I've spent over half of my professional life involved in CNMI affairs, in the hated "private sector," no less, and this is the most consistent place I've ever seen.

This is a year of great opportunity. The glaring difference between public discourse and genuine economic reality is creating huge displacements in the markets, and these displacements are where the opportunities are. That, to me, is paradise, and I've always enjoyed it, because I have never had any desire to change it.

'The values that unite us as Republicans'

By AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Amata Coleman Radewagen is the Republican National Committeewoman for American Samoa.

Editor's Note: *The following is the abridged text of the address delivered by Amata Coleman Radewagen to a gathering of the Republican Party of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands at the Fiesta Hotel on Friday evening, Jan. 25, 2008.*

Talofa.

Ole'a to'a ia i Ao Sa o mauga o tupu na ifo ai tofiga o Samoa, pa'ia le popo ma pa le solo, le ao mamala o le atunu'u e pele i le loto.

Ae tumua ona ou fa'atulou atu i le pa'ia o le aofia o lo'o afifio i lenei atunu'u, tama ma tina matutua, aemaise le talutalu fou tupulaga o le lumana'i le faamoemoe o si tatou atunu'u, tainane uo ma e masani o lo'o tatou fa'atasi i lenei afiafi matagofie.

Magalo ia so'u leo ae fa'aagafua le nofoaga se'i fai atu se tala i le gagana papalagi mo le silafia e le to'atele o le aofia.

For those of you who do not speak Samoan—which I realize is most of you—I said a few words of traditional greeting in our language to the Samoans who are here this evening, as is customary in our culture.

Now to all the others, I say *hafa adai*, which is almost as familiar for me to say as *talofa* because I spent some of my formative years here in the Northern Marianas while my father was the district administrator and then deputy high commissioner of the Trust Territory.

The bonds of my family and the families of this beautiful commonwealth are permanent. They are my family's legacy and my family is very proud of that union. So, it gives me a genuine pleasure to be able to return to my second home, the island of Saipan. It is every bit as beautiful as when I was last here some years ago for a South Pacific Conference.

It is a special honor to be able to be here to help you kick off your month-long process to choose, for the first time, delegates to help pick the Republican nominee for President of the United States of America. This is an historic occasion and participation in our convention makes your membership in the American political family complete.

I realize that being so far from the U.S. mainland, we in the remote Pacific islands often can feel isolated and out of the mainstream of what is going on the country, but in a few short weeks, the political spotlight very well could turn on you here and us in American Samoa where on February 23 we both will be electing delegates to the Republican National Convention. Just think about it for a moment. In November, over 100 million voters will choose one of two people to hold the most important job on earth: President of the United States.

But those two people will have been selected by a much smaller group—the delegates to the two national political party conventions. In the case of the Republicans, the winning candidate will need 1,191 votes. Each delegate will have one vote. Nine of those votes will come from American Samoa, another nine will come from Guam and yet another nine will come from right here in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Those 27 votes will form a bigger delegation than 10 states and the District of Columbia. In fact, if you add the delegates from our sister territories in the Caribbean, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, we would have the 10th largest delegation to the convention. That represents a lot of potential clout if we stick together and use it wisely.

And our vote counts even more in developing the platform on

See THE VALUES on Page 13

Letters to the Editor

Act now on crimes vs tourists!

Unfortunately it appears that our crime situation—not that great to start with—is taking a serious turn for the worse. I am referring to the increasing number of crimes targeting tourists. Just last week another two tourists were robbed in Marpi, with one of them being Tasered. While I hesitate to suggest that a crime against a tourist is any more serious than a crime against a local resident or a resident alien, in fact I believe it is. Tourist crimes don't affect just the unfortunate immediate victims, but the entire community. Our tourist numbers are dismal, and word traveling back to Korea, Japan, or anywhere else about these despicable incidents will do much harm to our already ailing economy.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent every year by MVA and other public agencies and private companies to attract visitors to the CNMI. It takes only a few of these incidents to totally negate that effort. Immediate action needs to be taken before any more tourist crimes occur. I would suggest the following:

1. All arriving tourists should be given a printed handout stressing that the CNMI is quite safe, but that there are common sense rules that travelers should follow in any country (be aware, safeguard your belongings, don't travel to remote areas alone, etc. And that if you are the victim of a crime, try to get a description of the people and vehicles involved including license plates). This literature could be given out by Customs or Immigration inspectors, or made available in hotel rooms.

2. More police patrols of all tourist sites, and security guards at all major tourist sites.

3. Consider the possibility of having some police officers assigned to MVA to work full time on tourist crime prevention and investigation. These officers could also serve as roving ambassadors for MVA. If funding is a problem perhaps MVA could budget for this. Some funds might be better spent on making sure the tourists that do come to the CNMI go home with a favorable impression, rather than with stories to tell their countrymen about the crimes they experienced here.

4. Possible placement of security cameras along roads leading to major tourist sites.

5. Mandatory prison terms for anyone convicted of a crime targeting tourists.

Many years ago several tourists on a golf course in the Virgin Islands were killed by political extremists and the tourist industry there was devastated for years. Also a few years ago Miami, Florida, received much negative publicity in Europe when several carjackings in that city targeted tourists. Last March a Fijian soldier on a commercial flight created an international incident by urinating on a Japanese tourist. This incident received much publicity in Japan and the fallout is expected to cost Fiji literally millions of dollars in lost tourist trade. And probably even worse than the lost dollars is the shame the entire country now has to endure, thanks to the actions of just one idiot.

I am not suggesting that an incident like one of the above is imminent here, but even several small incidents add up to a big image problem. Let's not wait until our tourist industry is completely ruined or a tourist is seriously injured or killed before acting. Let's be proactive and take action before it gets worse!

Herminia Matsumoto Fusco
Capital Hill, Saipan

Who is to blame?

I've never done this before, writing my opinion for all to see and read. But I've got to say something now. I didn't like what you did, Pamela Mathis, by blaming the Mobil Oil company for the power outage that we recently had and customers on how quickly or how slowly we pay our power bill. I believe you should think before you speak. As a teacher I tell my students that certain phrase all the time. You blamed the Mobil company for not delivering the fuel on time. Well, did you place your order on time? According to a Mr. Singh in the news article, CUC didn't do that. Please don't think that because your company is the only power plant here on Saipan, that your word is law. *Place your order in a timely matter, meaning 24 hours prior to delivery*. Mr. Singh did say that all customers know that and isn't CUC a customer of Mobil Oil? I would think so.

Then you blamed the island customers for your 20 percent pay reduction. What was that you said in your interview? "This would never have happened if all the customers had continued to pay the real cost of electricity…" I was taught to believe that I was paying the real cost of electricity, but I feel that we as customers are paying more than the "real electricity" cost, meaning the surcharge. Ms. Mathis, I don't know what your were thinking, but stop blaming all the things that happen at the power plant or the late order of the fuel on the people of Saipan. Because those people who you say don't pay on time, they could also be those employees of CUC. Don't you think so; I do. Stop blaming everyone else, because that's a child's game and take care of CUC business, which is your game. Everyone is in the same situation as all the employees of CUC. We all had our pay cuts. Do you see us crying about it? No! So, stop all these nonsense blaming and find out what you and everyone can do to help.

Judith S. Castro
As Matuis, Saipan

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲80° ▼75°	▲81° ▼75°	▲81° ▼75°	▲81° ▼75°	▲80° ▼74°

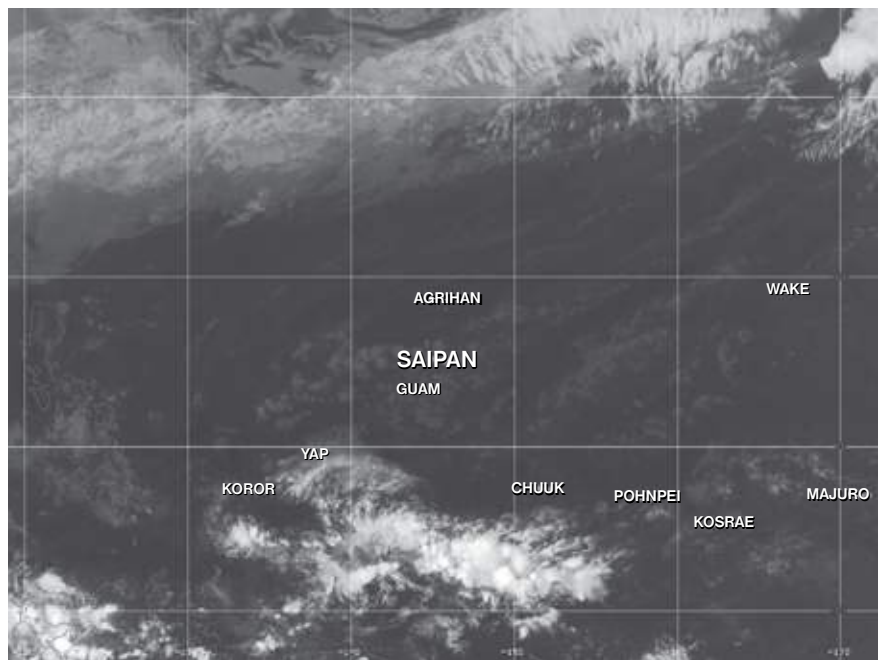
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲83	▼74
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Sunny	▲91	▼81
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Cloudy	▲83	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲76	▼65
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲36	▼21
Hong Kong	Showers	▲56	▼52
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼69
London	Cloudy	▲41	▼32
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲64	▼48
Manila	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼74
Melbourne	Sunny	▲80	▼65
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼68
New York	Rain	▲42	▼36
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲42	▼32
Paris	Rain/Snow	▲44	▼32
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲44	▼28
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲53	▼42
Salem	Cloudy	▲43	▼32
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲56	▼44
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲36	▼18
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲43	▼34
Washington, DC	Rain	▲43	▼35

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, JAN. 31, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

High pressure and dry trade-wind flow continue to dominate Micronesia today. The only significant convective area lies southeast of Palau and to the south of Yap and Chuuk. This area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms is primarily related to weak low-level troughing within the trade-wind convergence and some enhanced upper-level divergence. It is located within 150 miles of a line from 6N139E to EQ157E elsewhere. Only small patches of trade-wind showers persist primarily between 10 and 20N and in eastern Micronesia between 2N and 5N east of 160E. This evening's satellite imagery shows all frontal activity located north of 25N.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
05:09AM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
08:28AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
01:51PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
10:10PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46AM	6:15PM
Saturday	6:46AM	6:15PM
Sunday	6:46AM	6:16PM
Monday	6:46AM	6:16PM
Tuesday	6:45AM	6:17PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	01:38AM	01:00PM
Saturday	02:30AM	01:48PM
Sunday	03:24AM	02:40PM
Monday	04:16AM	03:35PM
Tuesday	05:07AM	04:32PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contribution are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 29, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	1,2,4,5,6,7
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:30am	11:10am	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:30am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Beijing			
CA 988	3:15am	7:00am	1,5
Saipan-Shanghai			
MU 590	4:20am	7:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 910	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

ARRIVALS

Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,4,5,6,7
CO 9316	3:30am	4:20am	2
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	10:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
OZ 607	6:50pm	2:50am+1	3,7 via Busan
OZ 607	7:30pm	2:50am+1	4 via Busan
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily
Beijing-Saipan			
CA 987	6:05am	1:55am+1	4,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
MU 589	8:05pm	3:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

(Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana. ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

THE VALUES

From Page 11

which our nominee will run for president, because each state and each territory will have two members on the 112- member platform committee. The two members from CNMI will have votes on that committee that will count every bit as much as the two votes from New York or California or Texas. So you can see that if the five territories can find common ground we can have a powerful say in how the platform reads.

I'm excited about this opportunity you have for the first time to join the other territories and I will be proudly looking for the Northern Marianas banner over your delegation on the floor of the convention hall in Minnesota.

I appreciate the kind words that have been said about my role in your membership in the national Republican Party but really the credit goes to your leaders who had the vision to establish a Republican Party, then work hard to gain membership in the Republican National Committee on which I sit as a member for American Samoa.

I remember 1988, the first convention after CNMI residents became U.S. citizens, when Gov. Pete Tenorio came to New Orleans with Joeten and Manny Villagomez as convention observers. My dad was proud to bring them down to the floor to be seated with the American Samoa delegation. Joe Reyes and John Reyes came to RNC meetings over the years at their own expense to petition for membership and answer questions about the Northern Marianas. Gov. Juan Babauta played an important role by urging the party to move forward with affiliation at the 2004 convention and your Washington representative, Pete A., came to the convention in New York to lobby for a rules change to include CNMI in future conventions.

Thanks to the same Bob O'Connor who brought me here, Pete was able to host a cruise of New York harbor for all the members of the Rules Committee, which played a big part in them getting to know the CNMI. Without all those efforts, without all your leaders educating people on the fact there were fellow Americans out here who deserved representation every bit as much as any other territory, it would not have happened.

As for my role? Well, there is an old saying that is commonly used in both of our cultures. We call it the crabs in the bucket syndrome. Every time a crab tries to get out of the bucket, the other crabs pull him back down. Well, this is a Samoan crab who got out of the bucket, found the view on the outside pretty good and reached back to pull the CNMI crabs out after her. And I'm proud of it. After all, as I said, we are family.

Speaking of family, let me talk just a little more about the Republican family. I have read and heard it said over the years that Republicans in the Northern Marianas are not "real Republicans."

What makes a "real Republican?"

If you look at our candidates for president, you could hardly have a wider divergence of views on the issues. Is former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee any more or less a Republican than former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani? Their views on a lot of key issues could not be further apart. Are Mississippi Republicans the same as Massachusetts Republicans? I think not.

So what makes CNMI Republicans any different than any others in the Republican family?

What some people fail to appreciate is that our party is not a monolith. As we like to say, we are the party of the big tent. In fact, the national party comes together only once every four years: at a convention to nominate a president.

The convention then forms a standing committee, which we call the Republican National Committee, to run the party's affairs between conventions and organize the next convention. Each state and territory has three representatives on that committee, regardless of size or political status. The committee does not dictate to the state and territorial parties, which have complete autonomy. There is no national litmus test on what makes a Republican. There is no such thing as being a member of the national Republican Party. Each and every jurisdiction determines who can claim to be a Republican and who can run as a Republican.

You are fortunate because your party has been the dominant political party in the Northern Marianas for many years. I have a different problem at home because we are not the dominant party. In fact, our elections are formally non-partisan. So, people always ask me why I am a Republican when nationally it is the Democrats who are the party of minorities.

Well, first of all, when I look around me in American Samoa, pretty much all I see is Samoans, so I hardly consider myself a minority. In fact, when I am asked to sit on panels in Mainland conferences to talk about the minority vote, I remind the audience that I feel a bit like the Lone Ranger's Indian companion Tonto. When the two of them were surrounded by a hostile tribe one day, the Lone Ranger said to Tonto, "What are we going to do now," and Tonto replied: "What do you mean *we*, kemo sabe?"

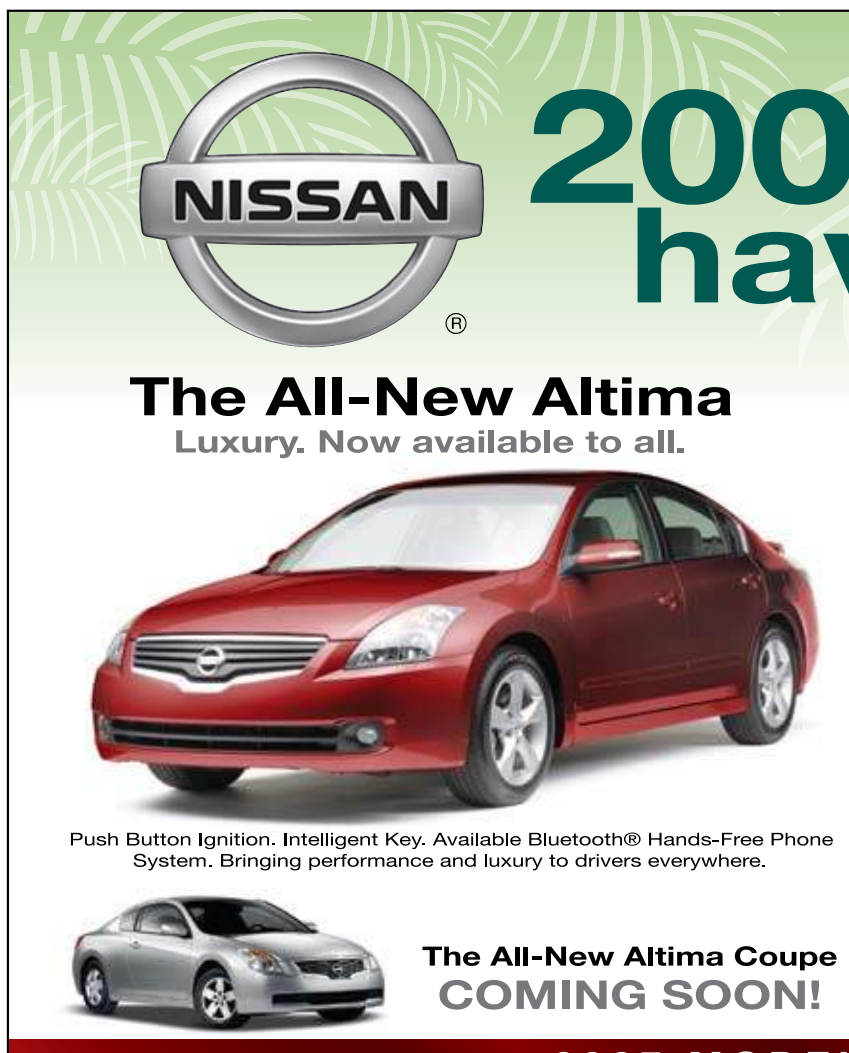
In American Samoa, we don't need to go after the minority vote. Just win half the Samoan vote.

But, having said that, I do tell the voters back home that I am a Republican because Republicans nationally share my values and better reflect my beliefs than Democrats do. I want to take just a few moments to talk about these values we share with Republicans across America because, having lived among you, I know in my heart that these are values you also hold dear in the Northern Mariana Islands. There are five of them that I want to talk about.

First is our belief in the centrality of God and the primacy of the family in our lives as the core building blocks of society. Samoans are a God-fearing and

See THE VALUES on Page 14

LET'S GO TROLLING
It's Mahi-mahi Season!
YOU CATCH YOU KEEP
Halfday and Fullday Charters
Enjoy our Dinner Cruise
with Dinner or Happy Hour only
Special rates are available
Saipan Sea Ventures Inc. • Call 287-7667


NISSAN
2008 models have arrived!
The All-New Altima
Luxury. Now available to all.
Push Button Ignition. Intelligent Key. Available Bluetooth® Hands-Free Phone System. Bringing performance and luxury to drivers everywhere.
The All-New Altima Coupe
COMING SOON!
Introducing Rogue
A whole new crossover
The All-New Nissan Rogue with available intuitive All-Wheel Drive, extra-smart storage and a street-savvy 27 miles per gallon. Driving is fun again.

2007 MODELS CLEARANCE

NISSAN	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE	HONDA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Versa HB	#7L360734	Blue	$15,990.00	Fit	#7S025556	Mist	$14,995.00
Versa S	#7L398849	White	$15,990.00	Fit Sport	#7S025501	Blue	$16,495.00
Sentra	#7L611483	Gray	$16,990.00	Civic DX	#7L061948	White	$16,995.00
Frontier XE	#7C409237	White	$23,390.00	CR-V LX	#7C073538	White	$22,995.00
Frontier SE	#7C408903	Silver	$26,990.00	Ridgeline	#7H505732	Silver	$32,990.00
Pathfinder	#6C674658	Granite	$28,990.00				
FORD	**STOCK #**	**COLOR**	**PRICE**	**KIA**	**STOCK #**	**COLOR**	**PRICE**
Ranger	#7PA31119	White	$16,990.00	Rio	#76292370	White	$12,995.00
Fusion	#7R127180	Pearl	$18,990.00	Rio	#76292373	Gray	$12,995.00
Escape	#7KB45887	Silver	$19,990.00	Sportage	#77353763	Silver	$17,695.00
F-150	#6NB05745	White	$21,990.00	Sorento	#65602982	Green	$18,995.00
Sport Trac	#7UA65392	Gold	$26,990.00				

Joeten Motors 30th ANNIVERSARY

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON
TEL. 234-5562

*All vehicles finance at 11.34% A.P.R. for 60 months with 20% downpayment.
Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last.

Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU

Letter to the Editor

Reasonable and unreasonable governing

My being "unreasonable" is no excuse to avoid Constitutional law and principles. I must say the news article informing me that I would not be appointed in an acting capacity was more hilarious to me than disappointing because it really set me free to wait on the court.

More importantly, it revealed what teachers can expect from our Governor—nothing. As for the claims of me being unreasonable, I did everything I could to help this administration and teachers to resolve this last year. I talked with three of the Governor's Special Assistants and his press secretary pleading with them to work with me to resolve this and we still ended up in the news.

It was reasonable that I informed the Governor to prepare for appointing a Teacher Rep. in October of last year. It was reasonable that a "neutral" election be held. Is it reasonable to claim this administration wants to work in collaboration with the Commissioner and the board but not with the elected and appointed Teacher Rep? Is it unreasonable to appoint an "acting" representative until a permanent replacement can be found? Is it unreasonable that teachers need a representative on the board at all times, as policies and issues affecting teachers will continue to be discussed, addressed and implemented? Is it unreasonable to appoint an "acting person" so you can get on with the more important issues? Is it unreasonable to think that any "acting" Teacher Rep. needs the support of teachers, especially when they have already been previously elected to the post?

The challenge or problem for the administration is not me but to overcome its own prejudices toward people who are not politically aligned with their party. In the words of the press secretary, "you [Mr. Bennett] were in support of Mr. Babauta and that you have a political agenda" just because Mr. Babauta chose to help me. This statement alone is proof of the prejudice within the administration and it confirms why the administration has done everything but try to work with me.

There is nothing political about the Teacher Rep post other than the controversy created by ACT. This has nothing to do with the political process and the Teacher Rep doesn't have a vote in any state policy. This is about compliance with CNMI law and it is the duty of the Governor to make sure all public boards are in full compliance with CNMI law.

Ambrose Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

THE VALUES

From Page 13

God-loving people. God is central to all aspects of our lives and we must pay homage to Him first and foremost. God and family are central to building, maintaining and strengthening our society. It is God who nourishes our spirit; it is the family that nurtures our beings, particularly our young, our disabled and our elderly. We must do all in our power to preserve and protect our families and, in accordance with our custom, culture and beliefs, brook no interference in our worship of the Holy Spirit.

Second is our belief in the sanctity of life. As part of our belief system, Samoans do not believe in or participate in the practice of abortion. The Samoan culture holds that all life is precious in the sight of our Lord. We oppose any efforts by outside forces to impose beliefs on us that are inconsistent with our customary practices.

Third is the preservation of private family property rights: the foundation of our culture. The most fundamental underpinning of our culture is our land. Land defines us a people. It is inseparable from our blood. We oppose any efforts to diminish clan stewardship over private family land. The fabric of our society always has been family ownership of private property.

I believe that private land taken for public purposes by government for the common good must be minimized, and that property rights must be safeguarded by enforcing the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which requires just compensation be provided whenever private property is needed to achieve a compelling public purpose. I oppose any efforts to diminish the rights of the stewards of privately held family land.

Fourth is the necessity of maintaining a strong national defense for the protection of our freedoms. We believe the freedoms we enjoy, which are granted by God and guaranteed by the United States, are best preserved by a strong national defense. Whenever our nation has been threatened by danger from abroad, islanders have been among the first to answer the call to duty in service to our country. Our men and women in uniform are our warriors and our heroes. Their service is our contribution to America's strength.

Fifth is our belief in the fundamental American principle of federalism, which limits the intrusion of the federal government into the lives of the people. I believe strongly in the 10th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which limits the powers of the federal government to those enumerated in the Constitution.

The right to self-government and the right of the people to control their own lives is central to the preservation of our island cultures. Each of us has come to our relationship with the U.S. in our own way. In American Samoa, our traditional leaders negotiated a treaty of cession with the United States in 1900 and our most important secular holiday each year is Flag Day, which celebrates the day the American Flag was first raised over our soil.

You have your precious Covenant. I was honored to have been among those who were invited to be present in the East Room of the White House in 1976 when that document was signed.

Over the course of over a century under U.S. sovereignty, we have acquired self-government while yours is enshrined in your Covenant. Self-government is precious to both of our peoples and we are committed to maintaining, strengthening and preserving it. I believe that problems within our system can best be resolved by the people through the ballot box, ensuring that the most qualified people are managing our system, not by uprooting the system itself.

As you all know, when I return home to American Samoa from here, I will be announcing my candidacy for Congressional delegate. These five principles: God and family, life and land, defense and federalism, will be the foundation of my campaign.

I would be very surprised if any of you in this audience disagree with any of these principles and I can assure you they reflect the beliefs of most Samoans. When your delegates get to our convention in Minneapolis-St. Paul in September, you are going to find that these are principles that Republicans from all walks of life and all parts of the country embrace. You will find that these principles will form the foundation of much of our party's platform.

So, I ask you to go forth from this gathering, be proud of your heritage and be proud of your membership in the Republican Party. You will have an opportunity to demonstrate that pride by electing delegates to the Republican National Convention.

In two weeks, your precinct clubs will hold caucuses to nominate delegates and on Feb. 23 you will hold a special convention to elect those delegates and alternates to the convention.

This is a historic occasion and I urge you to be part of history. Let's show stateside America how we do it in the islands, where we have fought hard for our liberty and do not take it for granted. That is why consistently our people vote in much higher percentages than they do in the states.

Thank you again for your hospitality and friendship. It is so good to be here among friends and family.

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Intimate Valentines Dinner at the
Fiesta Resort and SPA Saipan
Treat your Special someone to an exceptional dinner with our French inspired menu created by our Executive Chef having this special occasion in mind…
5 course set menu with a choice of glass of wine
$ 65.00 per person
And to show your appreciation to your love one, we will include 1 gift certificate from The SPA for every couple and homemade truffle chocolate free…
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New Arrivals!

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Biore Blemish 6.7oz. $4.49

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Suave Hair Gel 8.5oz. $2.29

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Chicken Leg Quarter 22lb./case $16.99/cs.

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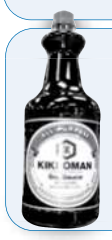
US Pork Spareribs 20lbs./case $14.99


Kikkoman Soy Sauce1.6 ltr. $3.99/ea.

New Zealand 1/2 Shell Mussels 2.2lb. $5.99/ea.

Asahi Sugar 4.4 lb $1.79/ea.

Hafa Adai Water 24/350ml $6.50/cs..

Kristov Vodka Cruisers 275ml. $1.49/ea.

Bounty Basic Towel 1 Roll $1.29/ea.

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$18,599

USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS							
U07-098T	2004	CAMRY 4DR	AUTO	27675	SILVER	ACE-355	13,799
R07-025F	2004	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	43820	BEIGE	ACC-860	13,999
R07-016F	2005	MATRIX	AUTO	19890	GRAY	ABV-759	11,299
GM CARS							
U08-002P	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	9706	BLUE	ACE-586	8,999
U07-123P	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	9500	GRAY	ACE-688	8,999
R07-031F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	68515	YELLOW	ABY-169	8,999
R07-035F	2005	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	63367	WHITE	ACD-026	8,699
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	7,899
R07-023F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	32635	WHITE	ABX-679	9,599
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	10,999
U07-075R	2005	EPICA 4DR.	AUTO	10098	BEIGE	ACA-204	8,999
TOYOTA TRUCKS							
R07-036B	2003	TACOMA 4X4 D/CAB	AUTO	85270	RED	ABR-739	15,999
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X4 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	11,899
R07-026F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 REG/CAB	MANUAL	46550	WHITE	ACA-308	9,999
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS							
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	50416	SILVER	ADF-401	8,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	8,999
U07-108P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	45099	SILVER	ADF-431	8,999
U07-109P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	43869	SILVER	ADF-371	8,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	16,799
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR. SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	7,999
U07-118T	2004	MAZDA MX3 4DR. SEDAN	AUTO	33366	SILVER	ADH-312	12,799
CONSIGNMENT	2001	FORD ESCAPE	AUTO	39530	BLUE	ABW-458	10,899
VANS							
U07-096	2000	SIENNA XLE	AUTO	92766	GRAY	ACO-561	8,999
SPORT UTILITY							
U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAIGNE	ABY-153	13,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	12,799
U07-007T	2004	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	41649	BEIGE	ACB-455	14,999
U07-082P	2004	RAV4 4DR. 2WD	AUTO	68919	GRAY		13,599

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2x6x12		$11.60/Pc
2x6x14	$8.50/Pc	
2x6x16		$14.50/Pc
2x6x20	$11.90/Pc	

UTILITY LUMBERS

	Regular	Treated
2x4x12	$4.20/Pc	$6.20/Pc
2x4x14	$5.00/Pc	$7.00/Pc
2x4x16	$6.00/Pc	$8.20/Pc
2x4x18	$6.30/Pc	$9.60/Pc
2x4x20	$7.20/Pc	$10.50/Pc

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Rope $2/pc
US lumber 15% off
Roof tin 15% off
Shower room 35% off
Window 35% off
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FSM citizens are aliens and could be deported

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia are considered aliens and therefore could be deported.

Because the Trust Territory no longer exists, its residents, including those of the FSM, now qualify as aliens in deportation matters, the high court said.

In addition, federal immigration law only grants Compact nationals certain entry privileges and applies all other immigration laws to them, said the high tribunal's opinion penned by associate justice Alexandro C. Castro and concurred by chief justice Miguel S. Demapan and justice pro tem Jesus C. Borja.

"The Commonwealth has always embraced its Micronesian brothers and sisters when they have come here for work and educational purposes. However, the Compact was not intended to harm the territories and commonwealths, and there is no reason to believe that the Commonwealth legislature wishes to cause such harm either," the justices said.

The justices issued the opinion in affirming Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman's ruling that FSM citizens are subject to CNMI immigration laws and therefore subject to deportation.

Wiseman said the Compact of Free Association does not exempt FSM citizens from CNMI's non-discriminatory Immigration limitation.

Wiseman said the CNMI, by virtue of the Covenant, has been granted nearly plenary authority over its own immigration.

"In exercising this authority, the CNMI has passed legislation limiting the ability of 'aliens' to remain in the CNMI by making deportable all aliens who have been convicted of two ore more misdemeanors or one or more felonies," he said.

Wiseman issued the ruling in his order finding Douglas A. Phillip—an FSM citizen convicted of assault with a dangerous weapon, which is a felony offense—deportable.

The judge cited that because Phillip is an FSM citizen and is classified as an alien, he is subject to the immigration laws of the CNMI governing deportation.

Being convicted of two or more misdemeanors or one felony is grounds for deportation of an alien from the CNMI.

Phillip, through counsel, argued that CNMI immigration laws do not apply to him because he is a citizen of a state that formerly held status as a Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands when it was in existence.

Phillip asserted that and the definition of "alien" specifically exempts citizens of TTPI from "alien" status.

Wiseman disagreed. Phillip appealed.

In upholding Wiseman's deportation order on Phillip, the justices said the language of Commonwealth law on this issue, combined with federal interpretation of the term "alien" and the Commonwealth legislature's silence on this matter, lead them to conclude that Phillip is an alien for deportation purposes.

"The immigration policies of the Commonwealth rest in the hands of the Commonwealth legislature," the justices said.

The justices cited that since the enactment of Commonwealth Entry and Deportation Act in 1983, the Legislature has amended the statute on three separate occasions and, during each visit, the definition of the term "alien" was left untouched and did not include citizens of the former Trust Territory.

"In contrast, the Commonwealth Legislature explicitly exempts citizens of the former Trust Territory from alien status with respect to the regulation of foreign investments," they said.

MHS Yearbooks available

The Marinas High School 2006-2007 Yearbooks are now ready for distribution. If you are part of the graduating Class of 2007, come to the counseling office from 3:30-4:30pm, Monday through Friday, and see Ms. Guerrero to pick up your yearbook. For questions and concerns contact 237-3206. ***(PR)***

Bordallo has new press contact

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo has appointed Audreya J.P. Taitano of Mangilao as her new assistant press secretary.

Taitano, who goes by "Audi," will work in the Guam District Office and yesterday was her first day in her new position. She replaces Cathy Sablan Gault, who retired from federal service in December 2007.

Taitano is a 1999 graduate of the Academy of Our Lady of Guam. She earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Arizona in Tucson, and holds an advanced degree in English from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.

She is the daughter of Rowena Ellen Perez and Joseph Punzalan.

Taitano can be reached at (671) 477-4272, by mobile phone at (671) 483-0289, or by email audreya.taitano@mail.house.gov. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free classic movie screening at AMP

Golden Oldie *Dodge City*, rated 100 percent by website www.rottentomatoes.com and starring Errol Flynn and Olivia DeHaviland, will be shown, for free, at the American Memorial Park theater on Sunday, Feb. 3, at 2pm. The showing is part of the ongoing "Sunday Canteen" Free Classic Movies in the Park series being shown at the AMP theater the first Sunday of every month.

MHS Class of '88 meeting today

This is to inform the class of 1988 graduates of Marianas High School that there will be a meeting today, Feb. 1, 2008 at 7pm at Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda residence in As Lito. This is to update plans on the upcoming 20th year class reunion.

For more information, contact Lillian Lizama Tudela at 287-3742 or Dennis Villagomez at 287-4689. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '83 meeting today

Marianas High School Class of 1983 will be holding a planning meeting today, Feb. 1, 2008, Friday, at 7pm. The meeting will be held at one of the pavilions at Kilili Beach, Civic Center, Susupe.

Numbers of the 25th Year Reunion Banquet at PIC will be finalized on this night for reservation purposes. Event tickets can still be purchased on a lay-away basis.

Contact any of the Steering Committee members for details: Tonnei Camacho, 483-9665; Viola Kaipat, 483-0214; Ed Camacho, 483-5262; Jane Tudela 234-9571; Frances Mildred Cruz, 483-0995; Ester Teregeyo, 285-6284; Ben Sablan, 287-1480; Diego Songsong, 287-4300. ***(PR)***

Childcare Program announcement

The Department of Community Cultural Affairs is informing all childcare providers, all government agencies and the public that the Childcare Program is still ongoing. The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs is now the lead agency for the Child Care Development Program. The following contacts are provided for everyone's information:

Contact Person:
Melvin L.O. Faisao, Acting Secretary; Linda C. Torres, Acting Program Manager

Office Location: Bldg. No. 1341 Ascension CT, Capital Hill

Contact Numbers: Tel. 664-2576/ 2574; Fax: 664-2570

E-mail: faisaom_dcca.deputysecretary@pticom.com

New Registration: To be announced

The Public School System no longer administers the program and any inquiries will be forwarded to the DCCA Childcare Program Section.

SCC's Team Captains' meeting

The Team Captains' meeting for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2008 Corporate Cultural Challenge will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 5, 3pm, at the Chamber office. There are still some openings available, so if you haven't signed up your team, do it now! ***(PR)***

Trails and Parks meeting set

There will be a Trails & Parks meeting on Feb. 7 at 2pm at the Resource Conservation & Development office. The RC&D office is on Beach Road on the first floor of the D.Y. Building with the coral reef banner out front. If it gets too large, the meeting will move next door to the NRCS office conference room.

"I hope to see you there, since anything, we do to improve our environment and ecotourism on this island will benefit everyone," said Ken Kramer, Marianas RC&D coordinator. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of 1978 meeting

A class reunion meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008 at 9am at SNACK 'N GO, King's Plaza Dandan (across Joeten Dandan Building). For information, contact Liz Balajadia at 898-9535/Bernie Igisair at 483-0859/Terry Kisa at 287-5247 or Viola Guerrero at 285-1268. ***(PR)***

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Spam Lite 12 oz. $1.85

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WEEKEND SALE

FROZEN

Pork Spareribs 20# $15.99/cs.

Whole Chicken Country Pride $35.00/cs.

Bun-buster Beef Patties 3 lbs. $6.99/lb.

Beef Heart 95¢/lb.

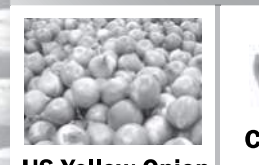
Beef Brisket For Soup $2.69/lb.

Pork Hocks Whole $1.25/lb.

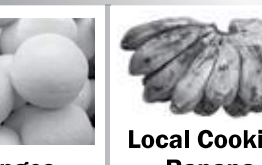
Shrimp 1# Bag $2.99 each

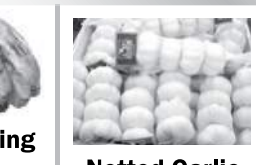
Cooked Octopus (Japan) $4.99/lb.

PRODUCE


US Yellow Onion 47¢/lb.

Cello Lettuce IceBerg $1.06/lb.


Oranges 83¢/lb.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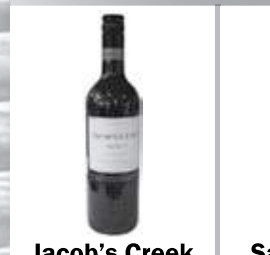
Jacob's Creek Merlot $9.66

Santa Digna Chardonnay $9.89

Stolichnaya Citros Vodka $14.62

Chivas Regal 12 Yr $25.92

Geikkeikan Nama-Chozo 300ml. $5.09

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Carnation Coffee Mate 16 oz. $1.65

House Java Curry (Med. Hot, Hot) 7.8 oz. $2.55

Mardi Gras Paper Towel 3 Roll $3.95

Nestea 36 Quarts $7.74

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"The office set up is a higher quality than most ophthalmologist offices here in the U.S"

Dr. Khorram uses the latest cataract extraction techniques that are being used at U.S. mainland facilities. He has a brand new phaco machine which is the latest on the market. I was very impressed with Marianas Eye Institute's office, overall organization, and cataract surgery facility. The office set up is a higher quality than most ophthalmologist offices here in the U.S. I was very impressed with the friendly and extremely helpful staff.

John Garland
Advanced Medical Optics
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SDA honor roll, principal's list

The Saipan Seventh Day Adventist School has released its honor roll and principal's list for the first semester of School Year 2007-2008. Honor roll is defined as having an average grade percentage ranging from 87 percent to 92 percent. Principal's List is defined as having an average grade percentage 93 percent and higher.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Saipan Seventh Day Adventist School's Honor Roll students.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Saipan Seventh Day Adventist School's Principal's List students.

HONOR ROLL

Grade 1
Lee, Tae Sung

Grade 4
Andrei Woodruff

Grade 5
Erin Belle Mendiola

Grade 8
Kono Luxly Remeliik
Yuko Takayama
Keisuke Yoshida
Michitaka Yoshida

High School Honor Roll
Jin, Mei Yan
Kim, Dong Hyun

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

Grade 1
Quincey Chinen
Kiana P. Magofna
Jonah Pohl

Grade 2
Hope Ierome
Jon Lacorte
Michelle Palacios
Damien Palacios
Noah Pohl
Yun Seok Jun

Grade 3
Danielle Zayco

Grade 6
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Yap: Keep the change

By JEFFREY GROBERMAN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: Jeffrey Gorberman is a travel feature writer based in Vancouver. He has been to Saipan several times during his travels in Micronesia. The following story was published in major papers across Canada two years ago as part of a series Groberman wrote on "Islands in the Sun" and he is making it available to the Saipan Tribune.

"Was that girl who put the lei on my neck topless?" I asked my son.

"You're getting pretty old if you didn't notice," he replied.

"I was checking out the stamp in my passport."

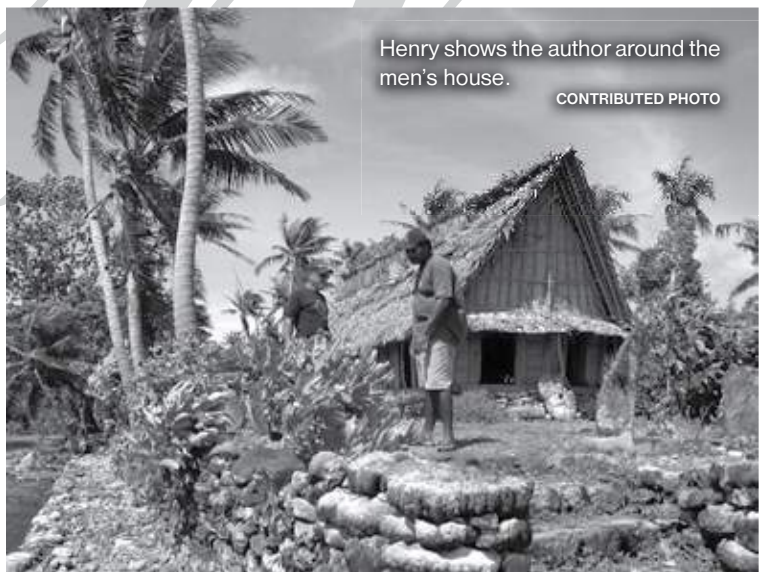
"Well if that's your priorities, I think I've made my point."

We've just cleared customs in Yap which is a just a short hop east of Palau where they recently shot the Survivor television series. It's not the prettiest island in Micronesia, but it's probably one of the most traditional. Despite being occupied by the Spanish, Germans, and Japanese, the Yapese have clung tenaciously to their customs and traditions.

The island is still in its infancy when it comes to tourism. The few hotels that exist cater mainly to divers who come from around the world to dive its crystal clear waters. When I expressed an interest to learn more about the island, its people and customs, my hotel said they'd try and arrange something.

That "something" turned out to be Henry, a local resident, in a borrowed car.

"Where do you want to go?" He asked.



Henry shows the author around the men's house.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

I'd read about old World War II airfields on Yap with Japanese planes still on the side of the runway. Could we start there?

After a 20-minute bumpy ride we emerged out of the jungle onto a strip of beat-up concrete.

"Is this it?" I asked expecting a manicured airfield with intact fighter planes lined up along the runway.

"What did you expect?" Henry asked, sensing my disappointment. "It's been 60 years. The jungle has grown back. If you want to see more we'll have to go on foot into the jungle."

As we progressed we found bits and pieces of Japanese Zeros and Betty Bombers. I was particularly surprised when we stumbled upon a large jet engine sticking out of the jungle.

"I had no idea the Japanese were so advanced in the 1940s." I said.

"Oh, that," Henry replied. "That's a piece from a 727 that went off the runway about 10 years ago or so. It was after that the government decided it might be time to build a new airport a lot closer to the fire hall."

"Good idea," I agreed.

After the old airfield Henry took me on a tour of a couple of the local villages. Everywhere we went there were great stone disks stacked on edge along the side of the road or in people's front yards.

Yap is the home of stone money. These stone disks, called *rai*, were quarried centuries ago on Palau and towed by canoe over 250 miles back to Yap. You see them everywhere: the smallest is about 3 feet and the largest we saw were over 8 feet in diameter.

"That's Stone Money," Henry said as he pointed to a row of weathered stone disks lining the side of the road. "We still use them here on Yap."

"Where do you find pay telephones big enough?" I asked. Henry thought that was uproariously funny. Yap would be virgin territory for a comedy club.

Henry explained they use American dollars for everyday things, such as groceries, gas and such; but Stone Money was still used for important things: buying and selling, land, dowries and fines.

As we entered a different village, Henry picked some branches off a plant and handed them to me.

"Carry these." He said. "It shows that you are friendly."

Evidently a smile and a "Hey, how's it goin'?" doesn't quite cut it in Yap.

Yap is a very male dominated society where the men hang out at the men's house and the women do most of the work. Like many Polynesian cultures there are still a series of taboos still in effect, particularly when it comes to men and women mixing. Yap might not a great place to visit if you're a committed feminist.

We stopped at the men's house in Henry's village. Henry tried to explain the rigid caste system: The village you're born in determines your name and caste, and every village fiercely protects its own turf.

"What would happen if you caught someone from a neighboring village fishing out here?" I asked pointing to the stretch of water right in front of where we were sitting.

"Well we'd go out and confiscate his catch." Henry said.

"That sounds reasonable." I replied.

"Then we'd take his fishing gear and confiscate his boat."

"Sounds like something that our fisheries department does back in Canada." I said.

"Then we'd bring him in here and beat him up."

"What??"

"Just a little bit." Henry continued. "Then we'd tie him to the pole here in the center of our men's house and send runners to his village demanding Stone Money for his return."

"Sound a bit harsh to me." I stated.

"Beats what we used to do." Henry said.

"What was that?"

"Kill him!"

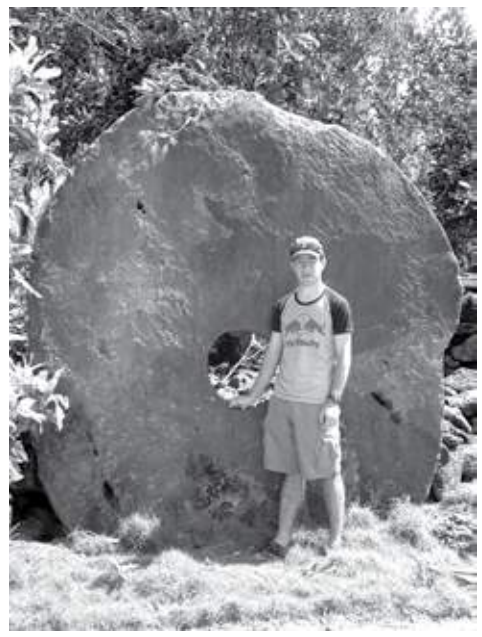
The next day on a kayak tour through the mangroves Mary, our guide, was very reluctant to paddle anywhere near a *faluw* (men's house). It could have been taboo, or perhaps she was leery of the typhoon bearing down on us.

In a stroke of delicious irony a typhoon was bearing down on us: the very same typhoon I had blamed several days earlier for my inability to participate in the Rota Triathlon.

I must admit that the excitement of experiencing a typhoon was very quickly overcome by the frightening reality of actually being in one—it was no Universal Studios ride. As the typhoon was approaching from the lee side of the island, the wind was actually blowing the surf off the beach. If you were crazy enough to go on to the beach with a surf board, you could actually surf out to sea!

If being greeted by a topless native girl is an experience when arriving in Yap, leaving is also a unique experience. When it's time to board your plane, they use the LaMonze system: just open the gate and everyone runs for the plane in a mad rush: No pesky seniors or kids getting the best seats on these flights!

Next time you're grumbling about the weight of that pocketful of change, remember—you could be in Yap carrying your change around in stone money.

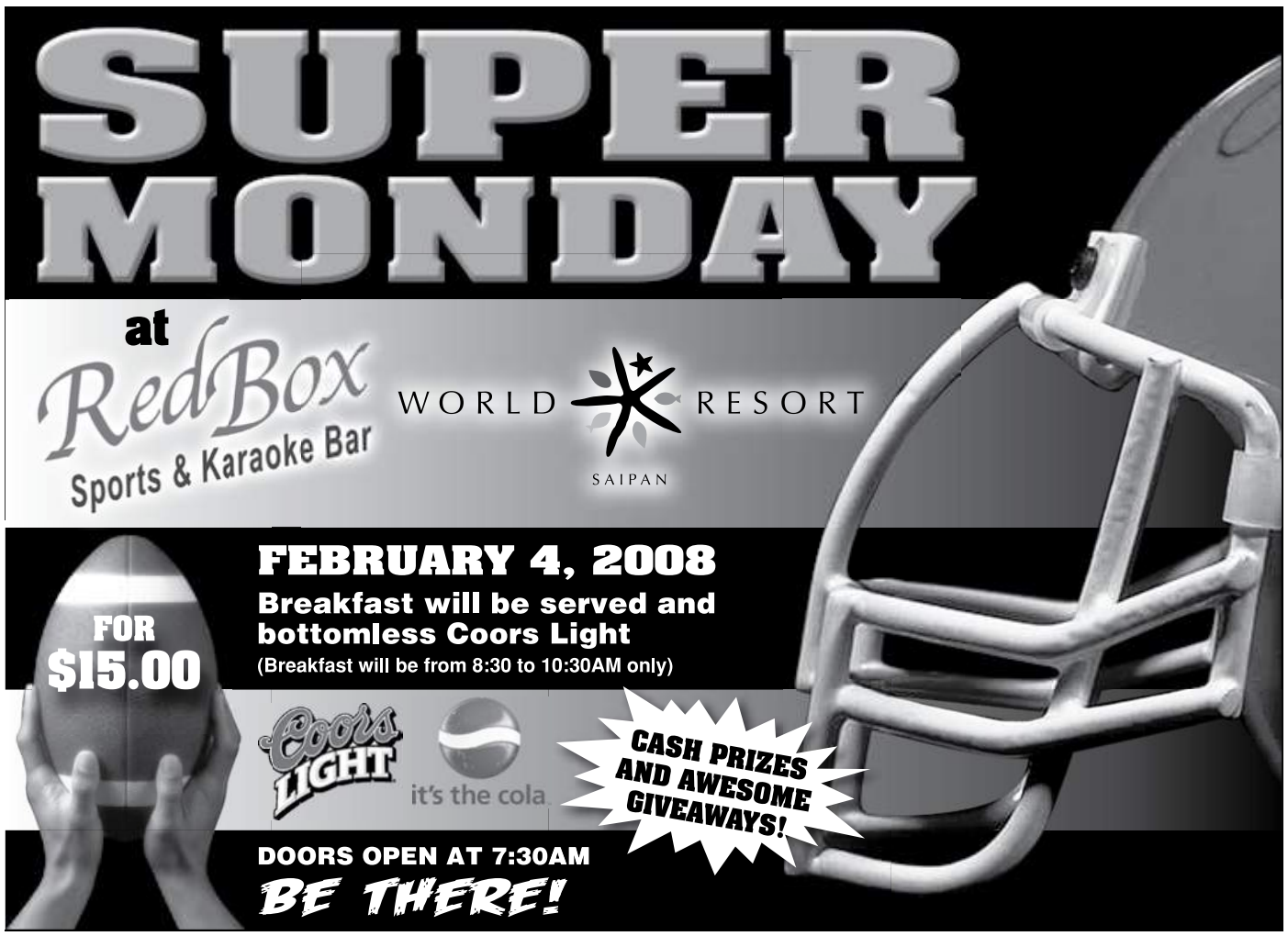


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Yap is the home of stone money. These stone disks, called rai, were quarried centuries ago on Palau and towed by canoe over 250 miles back to Yap. Here, the author's son poses with one of the stone money.

IF YOU GO:

Yap is serviced by Continental Airlines out of Guam and Saipan. The cost from Seattle is approx $1,800 for a discounted seat.

Jeff's Tip: Continental offers two very little known packages: **Visit Micronesia** and **Circle Micronesia**. Both packages offer multiple stops in Micronesia at no additional cost and the price of the package from Seattle is approximately the same as just flying to Yap alone. You won't find these packages online, but will have to request them.



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Business

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
The façade of the new Hawaii Bar & Grill in Garapan.

Bringing the taste of Hawaii to Saipan

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Former congressman Andrew Salas and his business partner David Phan are bringing the taste of Hawaii to Saipan.

Hawaii Bar and Grill held its soft opening on Jan. 18 and so far, so good for the establishment located across Hyatt Regency Saipan on Coral St. in Garapan.

"We opened Friday [Jan. 18] because we wanted to see if our cooks learned the 'Hawaiian Preparation 101.' We wanted to make sure they've graduated," Salas said in jest.

He said Hawaii Bar and Grill was packed three of the first six days since the soft opening. It comfortably seats 50 patrons.

"I'm very happy that the response has been very good. We haven't done any advertisement. We're not going to do any grand opening—just word of mouth. It's such a small community, once they hear something's open, they'll come," he said.

Salas said he and Phan decided to open a Hawaiian restaurant because for an island that has such a close affinity with the 50th State of the Union, every time he pines for Kalua Pig or Laulau, he simply cannot find a restaurant that serves those on Saipan.

"I didn't want to open a Filipino restaurant, a Chinese restaurant, or a Korean restaurant, because there's already a lot of them here," he said. "I love Filipino food, Chamorro food, I just love food, I love to eat, but I just want to give something that no one is offering. Because every time you ask for Hawaiian food they always bring Poki, but that's not it."

There's another reason why Salas has such a passion for Hawaiian food and it's something closer to his heart than his stomach.

"Hawaii is where I met my wife. To me it's a very special place. Since I met her, I've been going to Hawaii and the food there is just awesome," he said.

Salas enlisted the help of his in-laws from the Aloha State to set up the menu for the new restaurants and train his cooks.

Salas said that going into the restaurant business has given him an opportunity to extend his service to the people of the CNMI.

"I've really committed to this business. Right after the election, we decided to put up this bar and grill. I needed to stay busy and I want to do a lot of things. This also gives me an opportunity to serve people. But instead of being in politics, I serve food," he said.

Funds now available to assist businesses

HILO, Hawaii—The USDA Rural Development announces the availability of over $1.4 billion in Business & Industry Guaranteed loan funds nationwide. The State of Hawaii's share from this amount is $8.15 million and the Western Pacific of $5.0 million.

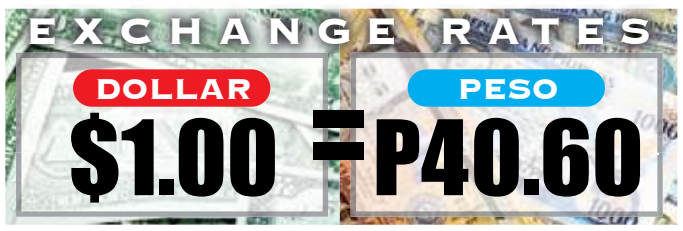
The B&I program provides financial backing for rural businesses. Commercial loan guarantees are available for up to 80 percent of the loan amount. Borrowers work with a local lending agency, which in turn seeks a guarantee from USDA Rural Development. The aggregate loan amount available to any one borrower under this program is limited to $25 million at any given time. Some of the eligible businesses include shopping centers, hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, miniature golf courses, commercial nurseries, tourist and recreational facilities.

One of the advantages to lenders that participate in the B&I program is meeting the requirements of the Community Reinvestment Act. The advantage to borrowers is that the program allows longer repayment terms. The terms available are 30 years for real estate, 15 years or the useful life for equipment/machinery, and seven years for working capital. Loans must be fully amortized.

According to Lorraine P. Shin, USDA Rural Development State Director, "Increasing economic opportunity and improving the quality of life for people in rural America is the goal of USDA Rural Development. USDA believes rural Americans deserve the same services enjoyed by people in suburban and urban areas while retaining the advantages of small town living."

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in rural communities. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development has invested over $72 billion since the beginning of the Bush Administration. These investments provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Over 1.2 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments.

Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development Office, or by visiting USDA's web site at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov. ***(USDA)***



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Let references know to expect inquiries

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
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Q: Before leaving my job with an elected official I was given a stack of recommendation letters to use for future jobs, grad school, etc. How do I handle these now that I'm ready to look for a new position? Can I use this letter as one of my professional references? For what it's worth, my potential boss at the job I'm considering applying for knows the elected official personally.

A: Those letters are nice, especially for grad school. But prospective employers are still going to want to talk to your old boss directly, so make sure he or she knows to expect it.

■ ■ ■

Q: I'm in my early 20s and just completed my master's. I'm having trouble answering an often-posted requirement from employers: salary requirement. How do I handle this? In my previous job I earned in the low 30s. Do I ask for a range of 30 to 40K? Also, how do I supply this information? Do I put it in the cover letter or as a separate attachment? I would rather not answer this question until an interview, but it is a constant tactic that employers seem to use when advertising positions.

A: Include it as a line in the cover letter. A request for a salary requirement doesn't bother me the way a demand for salary history does. The latter should be between you and the IRS.

As for how much, that depends on the going rate for someone with your credentials in your field. A professional association would usually have that information.

Questions from Career Tracks, an online discussion about workplace issues.

Dreams of academe? First,a course in reality

Those determined to pursue an academic career must work to make themselves stand out while they're still in school, keep a close eye on their finances and have a backup plan.

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Loren Blinde has known since she was an undergraduate that she wanted to be an English professor.

She has fulfilled her dream—sort of—by landing a job as a visiting assistant professor of English at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va. "However, since my position is 'visiting' rather than tenure-track, I am on the academic job market again this year," Blinde said.

Like other aspiring academics, Blinde has stepped into a job market that has changed dramatically in the past few decades. U.S. universities may be bursting at the seams with students, but budget-conscious administrations are filling out their payrolls with often poorly paid adjuncts and instructors—not the relatively well-paid, tenured jobs that once characterized the profession and to which many intellectuals aspire.

"Going to graduate school to become a college professor is much more of a crapshoot," said Blinde, 31, who earned a doctorate in English in 2006 from the University of California at Los Angeles. She applied for 50 jobs and had 10 interviews to earn her only offer, from Randolph-Macon.

Those determined to pursue an academic career must work to make themselves stand out while they're still in school, keep a close eye on their finances and have a backup plan.

"You must think of yourself as a budding professional," said Deandra Little, co-administrator of the Tomorrow's Professor Today program at the University of Virginia, which assists grad students there in their job searches.

Blinde concurred. "You must professionalize to the degree that you can," she said. Acquire teaching experience and publish an article, she advised.

The idea is to understand what the workload of a professor is like at the institutions where you hope to get hired, and what they want from their new employees. "It's not all curling up on the couch reading your favorite book," Blinde said.

That's assuming you can afford books.

Chris Bartel, an assistant professor of philosophy at Appalachian State University in North Carolina, said he wishes he had thought about money "much, much sooner" and had researched pay scales in different parts of the country more thoroughly.

Mind your manners, and your views

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Being polite at work pays off, says Barbara Pachter, author of NewsRules@Work: 79 Etiquette Tips, Tools, and Techniques to Get Ahead and Stay Ahead. And it's the little things that make a difference. Here are three of the courtesies she says you should never skip:

■ Greet people. You need to say "hello," "good morning," and "how are you?" to people, whether or not you know them and regardless of what position they may hold.

■ Answer your cell phone the right way. However, only answer your phone when you're in a position to have a real conversation. You don't want to have a dropped call or want traffic blaring in the background.

■ Thank anyone who has helped you. It's important to acknowledge any help you've received from colleagues, friends, and mentors. Make sure you say "thank you" and you can also send them a note or a small gift, such as a box of chocolates.

■ ■ ■

As the presidential race heats up, discussions about politics will become increasingly common at work. According to a survey by Vault.com, 35 percent of bosses openly share their political views with employees, and 9 percent of workers feel pressure to conform to the boss' views. Nearly a third of respondents said that a coworker has tried to influence their choice in an election. Political discussions can be healthy, but unless you work for a political organization, leave the buttons, pamphlets and stickers at home_ or at least in the car.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

When you can't pay your taxes

By DAVID UFFINGTON
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Have you filed your 2007 tax return yet? If so, you probably have a refund coming. Many wait until the last minute, however, if money is owed.

If you've done the math and realize that you don't have all the money you're going to owe, there's still time. Your best bet is to get the money anywhere you can, as quick as you can.

Places to look for money:

■ Credit cards—Interest rates are likely to be less than the amount you'd owe the Internal Revenue Service, once they tack on interest and penalties.

■ Sell something.

■ Equity in your house.

■ Borrow from relatives.

If April comes around and you still don't have all the money you owe, send in what you have with your tax return. Don't fail to file, no matter what, because the penalty is high.

You'll soon receive a bill from the IRS (with penalties and interest added on) for the balance you still owe. If you absolutely don't have it and know you can't get it in one lump sum, consider filing an Installment Agreement Request (Form 9465). This is an agreement between you and the IRS that you'll make regular monthly payments of a set amount until the debt is paid.

There are some caveats here. By entering into an installment agreement, you promise you won't be late on next year's taxes. The fine print says that you'll make your estimated taxes on time, too.

How much can you pay? The IRS wants you to pay off the debt in 36 months. Line 11 of Form 9465 asks you to put in an amount that you can pay every month. The risk here is that you won't be able to if something comes up. If you default on the agreement, the IRS can file a lien or levy on your bank accounts. If you leave line 11 blank, the fine print at the bottom of the instruction page says that an amount will be calculated, spreading the debt out over 60 months. Remember, though, that the interest and penalties also will be accruing that long, and the interest rate can change quarterly.

To take a look at the Installment Agreement Request form and instructions, go to the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov and do a search for Form 9465.

David Uffington regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Write to him in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com.

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Nation

Giuliani, Edwards bow out of US race

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican Rudy Giuliani and Democrat John Edwards have dropped out of the U.S. presidential race, narrowing down wide-open White House races for both parties to two top candidates.

In a major boost for John McCain, Republican presidential rival Mitt Romney signaled Wednesday he's not ready to commit to a costly campaign in the states holding primaries and caucuses next week.

■■■

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. (AP)—Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will endorse John McCain on Thursday, giving a certain boost to the Republican presidential front-runner six days before California's high-prize primary.

The two will appear at a news conference after touring a Los Angeles-based solar energy company and the governor will make his endorsement official, his senior aides confirmed Wednesday.

Schwarzenegger's endorsement is yet another setback for Mitt Romney, the former Massachusetts governor who saw Florida slip from his grasp Tuesday after McCain rolled up the support of that state's two top elected Republicans, Gov. Charlie Crist and Sen. Mel Martinez.

Giuliani

Edwards

McCain

His strategy in tatters, Romney plans to offer himself as the conservative alternative to McCain as he pushes ahead in hopes of winning enough delegates to topple the Arizona senator when 21 states vote in the Republican contest on Tuesday.

■■■

Several officials said that on the heels of a defeat in Tuesday's Florida primary, Romney's campaign was not attempting to purchase television advertising time in any of the nearly two-dozen states holding elections on Feb. 5, known as Super Tuesday.

Instead, the former Massachusetts governor's current plans call for campaigning in California and other primary states, said the officials, who had knowledge of the internal discussions. There would be organizational efforts primarily for caucus states.

However, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will be throwing his support behind McCain, senior aides for the governor said, with the endorsement to be announced Thursday. California is an important Super Tuesday state—offering nearly 15 percent of the total delegates needed to clinch the Republican nomination.

McCain also won a quick endorsement from Giuliani on Wednesday.

Romney and McCain are expected to sharpen their attacks on each other Wednesday night during the final Republican candidates' debate before the huge Feb. 5 wave of primaries.

Edwards' withdrawal turns the heated Democratic contest into a battle between Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton, who won a largely symbolic victory in Florida. No Democratic delegates were at stake and no candidates campaigned there because of a dispute between the state and national parties over the date of the primary.

Speaking to a crowd in New Orleans on Wednesday, Edwards said it was time to "step aside "so that history can blaze its path" in the race between a black man and a woman for the White House.

"With our convictions and a little backbone we will take back the White House in November" from the Republicans, he said.

The former North Carolina senator had lost the previous four state contests, unable to overcome the star power of Obama and Clinton.

The impact of Edwards' decision will be felt in one week's time, when Democrats hold primaries and caucuses across 22 states, with 1,681 delegates at stake. Four in 10 Edwards supporters said their second choice in the race is Clinton, while a quarter prefer Obama, according to an Associated Press-Yahoo poll conducted late this month.

Edwards' withdrawal adds six of Edwards' delegates for Obama, giving him a total of 187, and four more for Clinton, giving her 253. A total of 2,025 delegates are needed to secure the Democratic nomination.

Giuliani, a former front-runner whose candidacy collapsed quickly once the primaries and caucuses began, endorsed McCain in glowing terms. The Arizona senator "is the most qualified candidate to be the next commander in chief of the United States. He is an American hero," Giuliani said with McCain at his side in California.

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Obama says Clinton would be a step back

AP

Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., visits an enthusiastic overflow crowd before a campaign speech in Denver, Colo., Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008.

DENVER (AP)—Democratic Sen. Barack Obama said Wednesday a Hillary Rodham Clinton presidency would be a step back to the past, turning her husband's image of a bridge to the future against her. The former first lady decried the tenor of his comments in an interview with The Associated Press.

"I know it is tempting—after another presidency by a man named George Bush—to simply turn back the clock, and to build a bridge back to the 20th century," the Illinois senator said in Denver.

"... It's not enough to say you'll be ready from Day One—you have to be right from Day One," he added in unmistakable criticisms of Clinton, who often claims she's better prepared to govern, and her husband, who pledged during his own presidency to build a bridge to the 21st century.

■ ■ ■

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. (AP) —Republican Mitt Romney accused John McCain of using dirty tricks by suggesting the former Massachusetts governor wanted a deadline for withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq, in a spirited debate Wednesday night that underscored the intensity of their presidential rivalry.

"I have never, ever supported a specific timetable" for withdrawing troops, Romney said. McCain's accusation on the eve of Tuesday's primary, he said, "sort of falls into the dirty tricks that I think Ronald Reagan would have found reprehensible."

The debate was held in the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif., six days before more than 20 states hold primaries or caucuses that could determine who succeeds President Bush as the party's standard-bearer.

■ ■ ■

Within hours, Hillary Clinton pushed back in an interview with the AP—and got in her own dig.

"That certainly sounds audacious, but not hopeful," said Clinton, in a play on the title of Obama's book, "The Audacity of Hope." "It's not hopeful and it's not what we should be talking about in this campaign," said Clinton, suggesting Obama was abandoning the core of his campaign.

NASA photos reveal Mercury is shrinking

WASHINGTON (AP)—The first pictures from the unseen side of Mercury reveal the wrinkles of a shrinking, aging planet with scars from volcanic eruptions and a birthmark shaped like a spider.

Some of the 1,213 photos taken by NASA's Messenger probe and unveiled Wednesday help support the case that ancient volcanoes dot Mercury and that it is shrinking as it gets older, forming wrinkle-like ridges. But other images are surprising and puzzling.

The spidery shape captured in a photo is "unlike anything we've seen anywhere in the solar system," said mission chief scientist Sean Solomon of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. The image shows what looks like a large crater with faint lines radiating out from it.

Mercury, the closest planet to the sun, has often been compared to Earth's dull black-and-white moon. But the new photos, which reveal parts of Mercury never seen, show the tiny planet is more colorful and once had volcanic activity.

ACROSS THE NATION

2 men, teen killed in Albany, N.Y., home

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—A teenage boy and two men were found dead Wednesday in an apparent homicide in a house not far from the governor's mansion, police said. A family member found the bodies on the second floor, police spokesman James Miller said. He did not identify the victims or say how they died, except to say that it was apparently a homicide. They were 16, 26 and 30 years old, and two of the three have been positively identified, Miller said. Investigators did not have a motive, he said.

Baby was killed, dumped on Texas road

HOUSTON (AP)—A baby whose body was found on the side of the road next to his car seat was killed by head injuries before his body was dumped in Galveston, according to autopsy results released Wednesday. A woman has tentatively identified the body as that of her 3-month-old son, and authorities were searching for the baby's father, the last person seen with him. The child's death was ruled a homicide by blunt force head trauma. A couple looking for wildlife Tuesday morning found the body, clad only in a diaper, in a grassy area of Galveston, an island city about 50 miles southeast of Houston.

Changes at US border raise concerns

DETROIT (AP)—Some businesses and lawmakers are worried that new identification requirements going into effect Thursday at the borders with Canada and Mexico could create widespread confusion and delays and discourage some people from making the trip. Americans and Canadians will be required to show some document beyond a driver's license to prove citizenship, such as a passport or a birth certificate. In the past, some people entering the U.S. from Canada or Mexico simply had to declare their nationality. Ron Smith, a spokesman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Detroit, which has the busiest northern border crossing, said the agency will provide a grace period for travelers without the extra ID and will hand out fliers explaining the changes.

Hot spots reignite after Texas wildfires

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—A day after wildfires burned almost 30 square miles across Texas, a few more blazes sprang up Wednesday while victims sifted through the charred remnants of their homes. Several dozen homes or businesses, mostly in Parker and Wise counties, were in the path of 18,700 acres of wildfires fueled by winds of more than 50 mph in some places. Hundreds of acres of hay also were lost.

Katrina suit vs. Army Corps dismissed

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A federal judge threw out a key class-action lawsuit Wednesday against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers over levee breaches after Hurricane Katrina, saying that the agency failed to protect the city but that his hands were tied by the law. U.S. District Judge Stanwood Duval ruled that the Corps should be held immune over failures in drainage canals that caused much of the flooding of New Orleans in August 2005. The ruling relies on the Flood Control Act of 1928, which made the federal government immune when flood control projects like levees break.

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Asia

Bomb near rally wounds 44 in Nepal

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A bomb exploded near a political rally in southern Nepal on Wednesday, wounding 44 people, including the region's top administrator, officials said.

The attack was the worst of several blasts Wednesday in and around Birgunj, about 100 miles south of the capital, Katmandu. An explosion at the main market wounded one person.

The region's chief administrator, Bhola Siwakoti, was among 44 wounded when a bomb exploded near the political rally at a stadium, said police chief Yogeswor Romkhani.

Earlier, Siwakoti had said several ethnic rights group were suspected in the first explosions. He said the groups had called a general strike in the area to try to disrupt the rally.

The groups are demanding greater autonomy in southern Nepal, saying the region has been neglected in favor of the more populated north. They have staged strikes, transportation shutdowns and demonstrations to press their demands for more seats in the national legislature and a guaranteed number of representatives in the administration. Some of the protests have turned violent, leaving at least 80 people dead.

Several senior leaders of Nepal's seven-party ruling alliance had attended the political rally in Birgunj, but none were injured.

Chinese fight to get home amid blizzard

GUANGZHOU, China (AP)—Crowds of frantic Chinese fought for seats Wednesday on the few trains leaving southern China, where the worst winter storms in half a century have crippled the nation's transport system during its busiest travel season.

One desperate mob stormed a city bus in the main southern city of Guangzhou, mistakenly thinking it was taking passengers to the day's last departing trains. They pried open doors and elbowed their way inside as helpless police yelled, "It's not going to the station!"

Hundreds of thousands of stranded Chinese want to get home for next week's Lunar New Year—a holiday that is as important in China as Christmas is in the West. For millions of migrant workers, the festival that begins Feb. 7 is their only vacation from dreary jobs in factories that feed the world's ravenous appetite for DVD players, laptops, shoes and other goods.

Before the storms, railway officials estimated a record 178.6 million people would travel by train for the holiday

The situation might get worse as forecasters warned that more snow might fall in the next three days in parts of eastern and southern China.

China's leaders have deployed more than 450,000 army troops and extra units of police to clear roads and help provide emergency supplies to the millions of stranded travelers, state-run media reported, saying authorities had declared an "all out war" on the crisis.

AP

A man pushes a woman into a bus which will take them to the Guangzhou Railway Station, where train service remains delayed following harsh weather conditions, in Guangzhou, in south China's Guangdong province Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008.

4 die in RP fish plant explosion

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The death toll from a homemade bomb that ripped through a tuna canning factory in the southern Philippines rose to four Thursday with 27 injured, as police focused on a labor dispute or extortion attempt as a possible motive.

The crude device attached to a parked tricycle outside the Philbest plant in General Santos City exploded late Wednesday as about 1,500 workers were changing shifts.

One person died of injuries overnight, bringing the death toll to four, said Senior Superintendent Robert Po, the city's police chief. Among the dead was an 11-year-old boy who was selling fried bananas outside the factory, Radio DZRH reported.

At least 27 others were hurt, most of them cut by flying glass and debris, said Dr. Bing Aquino of St. Elizabeth Hospital.

Police were investigating the possibility that the blast, caused by a device made from a mortar shell, was linked to a labor dispute or an extortion attempt, Po said.

A more powerful bomb could have caused more casualties, he added.

Al-Qaida-linked extremists were blamed for January 2007 bombings in General Santos City and two other southern towns that killed seven and wounded 44 people.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Gandhi's ashes scattered at sea

NEW DELHI (AP)—Across the street from the house where Mohandas K. Gandhi was shot and killed 60 years ago Wednesday stands India's National Defense College, an institution that certainly would have troubled the icon of nonviolence. It's not the only thing that would have disturbed Gandhi about today's India, a rising economic and military power that barely paused Wednesday to mark the anniversary of his assassination. That's not to say Gandhi has been forgotten by this country of 1.1 billion people—he's still considered by most the moral conscience of the nation and pictures of his wizened, smiling face are everywhere, from rupee notes to murals along the highway.

Suu Kyi unsatisfied with Myanmar talks

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi is unsatisfied with the progress of her meetings with a representative of Myanmar's military junta and cautions the public to "hope for the best and prepare for the worst," a member of her political party said Wednesday. Suu Kyi, who was allowed to meet earlier in the day with executives of her National League for Democracy party, is unhappy that there is no deadline for the talks to achieve any results on bringing about democratic reform, said party spokesman Nyan Win. Western nations and the U.N. pressed the junta to hold talks with Suu Kyi after the regime's violent crackdown on pro-democracy protesters last year.

Deposed top judge assails Musharraf

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's deposed chief justice sharply criticized President Pervez Musharraf on Wednesday, calling him an "extremist general" for firing 60 judges and keeping his family—including his disabled 7-year-old son—under house arrest for three months. Iftikhar Mohammed Chaudhry's letter, smuggled out of his Islamabad residence and addressed to Western nations, showed how the U.S.-backed leader's harsh attacks on his critics are backfiring—leaving the president in more trouble as he struggles to cling onto power. Musharraf has seen his popularity plummet since he first tried to fire the chief justice last March.

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World

Tribe all but vanishes from Kenyan city

KISUMU, Kenya (AP)—The young man hefting a machete at the burning roadblock was frustrated. He'd been looking for five days, but could not find a member of the Kikuyu tribe to kill.

Members of Kenya's biggest tribe have disappeared in their thousands from Kisumu, making it the first—but perhaps not the last—city to be ethnically cleansed.

"If we find any Kikuyus, we're going to slaughter them or burn them alive," 19-year-old Daniel Odongo said Wednesday, who wielded the machete as a mob of hundreds of young men with rusty axes and other weapons roared their approval. "But there is none in the houses around here."

When incumbent President Mwai Kibaki was announced as winner of Dec. 27 elections by a narrow margin after days of unexplained delays, many in Kisumu took to the streets of the city of 504,000 on the shores of Lake Victoria, looting and setting shops ablaze.

The residents, mainly from the Luo tribe of opposition leader Raila Odinga, soon turned their rage on Kibaki's Kikuyu people—a minority in the western city resented for their domination of politics and the economy. They set Kikuyu homes on fire and ordered them to leave, or face death.

At the local police station, records show that officers escorted out of the city an average of 21 buses a day packed with panicking Kikuyus in the first two weeks of January. That means about 20,000 people fled Kenya's third-largest city, leaving about 484,000 people behind them. It is not known how many Kikuyus may have fled on their own, but it is not believed to be much higher than 20,000.

Now only about 150 Kikuyus remain, camping miserably opposite the police station for protection. No buses have been escorted out since Jan. 13, although murderous young men still stop vehicles searching for victims.

AP

A Kenyan man sits in the cab of a destroyed truck used as a makeshift roadblock while a tire burns on the roof, as he and others enforce the roadblock in Kisumu, Kenya, Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2008.

Odongo lamented that the only Kikuyus around were being guarded by police.

The Kikuyus trickling into the camp by the police station in the last few days are the poorest of the poor, as well as those with the strongest ties to the city.

US teams seek progress in Iraq provinces

QARRAYA, Iraq (AP)—The head of an Iraqi electricity plant ranted about lack of help from officials in faraway Baghdad. The local governor grumbled about being ignored on project planning.

The four-hour meeting at a U.S. military base in northern Iraq was full of gripes, bitterness and blame trading.

But it was just the sort of encounter Washington hopes will eventually jump-start jobs and public works to regions long neglected by Baghdad—and, along the way, possibly undercut the insurgency by showing that better days could be ahead.

With Iraq's national leadership moving slowly—if at all—on political and economic reforms, the United States is carving out a higher profile for a network of little-heralded groups, known as provincial reconstruction teams, that serve as a mix of business matchmakers, political counselors and deep-pocket donors.

The teams offer an easy way to bypass the political logjam in Baghdad and—in Washington's view—can work on local levels to spark economic growth and bridge Iraq's ethnic and sectarian divides on common issues such as schools, roads and water.

The timing also is right for the groups, called PRTs. As violence ebbs around the country, more attention is shifting to rebuilding and reconciliation.

"Nobody is under the illusion that a single meeting can achieve complete and lasting organizational change. But it can be one step," said Michael Hankey, the economics section chief for the PRT branch in the northern Nineveh province, whose capital, Mosul, is considered the last major urban stronghold for al-Qaida in Iraq and its backers.

UN: Climate change may cost $20 trillion

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Global warming could cost the world up to $20 trillion over two decades for cleaner energy sources and do the most harm to people who can least afford to adapt, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warns in a new report.

Ban's report provides an overview of U.N. climate efforts to help the 192-nation General Assembly prepare for a key two-day climate debate in mid-February. That debate is intended to shape overall U.N. policy on climate change, including how nations can adapt to a warmer world and ways of supporting the U.N.-led negotiations toward a new climate treaty by 2009, U.N. officials said Wednesday.

The treaty, replacing the Kyoto Protocol when it expires in 2012, could shape the course of climate change for decades to come. The Kyoto pact requires 37 industrial nations to reduce greenhouse gases by a relatively modest 5 percent on average.

Australia to apologize to Aborigines

MOUNT DRUITT, Australia (AP)—As a girl, Mari Melito Russell felt out of place. She was darker than the other kids at school, she felt more comfortable in the forest than her suburban home and she had vivid dreams of an Aboriginal woman beckoning her.

At age 24, she learned a shocking truth that helped explain her unease and set her on an agonizing search for an identity snatched away from her the day she was born.

Russell is among thousands of Australian Aborigines who were forcibly removed from their families under policies that lasted for decades until 1970, leaving deep scars on countless lives and the nation's psyche.

Australia's government said Wednesday it would formally apologize to the so-called "stolen generations" as the first item of business of the new Parliament, on Feb 13.

The issue has divided Australians for decades, and an apology would be a crucial step toward righting injustices many blame for the marginalized existence of Australia's original inhabitants—its poorest and most deprived citizens.

AP

Aborigine Mari Melito Russell holds one of her paintings during an interview in Mount Druitt, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008.

WORLD BRIEFS

Ex-priest jailed over exorcism death

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—A former priest began a seven-year jail term Wednesday for murdering a young nun during an exorcism ritual when she was bound, chained to a cross and denied food and water for days. Irina Cornici, 23, died from dehydration, exhaustion and suffocation during an ordeal that stunned Romania and prompted the Orthodox Church to promise reforms and psychological tests to screen potential clergy. The former priest, Daniel Corogeanu, and four nuns were all convicted and sentenced in September but Corogeanu was freed pending an appeal, which he lost Tuesday. He was picked up by police in the remote northeast Wednesday and sent to jail.

Woman to head Britain's 'men in tights'

LONDON (AP)—Britain's "men in tights" have their first female chief. The House of Commons security unit, which won the nickname because of their traditional dress includes stockings and buckled boots, said Wednesday that former advertising executive Jill Pay will lead the department. Pay becomes sergeant-at-arms, a centuries old role that combines responsibility for law and order in the Commons with ceremonial duties. Currently an assistant sergeant, Pay takes over from Maj. Gen. Peter Peterkin, who retired in December. The sergeant-at-arms is the only person still permitted to carry a sword into the Commons chamber and holds a ceremonial mace aloft during the elaborate opening ritual ahead of each day's sitting.

Reputed crime boss arrested in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP)—Police charged a reputed international crime boss with tax evasion Wednesday, pursuing prosecution of a man wanted in the U.S. and suspected of playing a key role in Russia's lucrative natural-gas trade with Europe. Semyon Mogilevich, long sought by the FBI, had been living freely near Moscow until his arrest last week on a street outside the city's World Trade Center. Police investigators charged Mogilevich in the Moscow jail where he is being held, according to his lawyer, Alexander Pogonchikov.

Israel PM mostly unscathed by war report

JERUSALEM (AP)—Prime Minister Ehud Olmert emerged relatively unscathed from the final report Wednesday on his handling of Israel's 2006 war in Lebanon, even though the inquiry criticized both the government and the army for "serious failings and flaws." The report stopped short of blaming Olmert personally for what many Israelis saw as a stunning debacle that emboldened the Jewish state's enemies. A harsher indictment could have threatened Olmert's rule and his stated goal of signing a peace treaty with the Palestinians within a year.

Gazans want to get deeper into Egypt

El-ARISH, Egypt (AP)—Eissa Sweillem entered Egypt through the breached Gaza border—but not just to shop at stores. The 27-year-old unemployed Gaza man hopes to buy a fake Egyptian identification card so he can get through security checkpoints and across the desert to Cairo. Egyptian officials say they have worked hard to keep Palestinians bottled up near the border since hundreds of thousands poured across after last week's breach. They are continuously stopped at checkpoints, and most make it no farther than the first two towns: the divided city of Rafah immediately at the border and El-Arish, about 40 miles away. But some Palestinians, and perhaps also some weapons from Gaza, have made to other parts of Egypt, including Cairo.

Off the Wall

Turns out it wasn't just false labor...

NORWOOD, Ohio (AP)—A woman who had been told that her pains were false labor pains gave birth in the driveway of her home. Charryse Brooks, 25, had gone to a hospital about 2 a.m. Sunday because she thought she might be in the early stages of labor. She wasn't due with her first child until Feb. 22.

Hospital workers told her she was experiencing false labor and told her to go home. She tried to sleep, but the pain increased and her contractions got stronger.

Finally, she insisted that she had to return to the hospital, but it was too late. By the time she got to the car, the pain was so intense, she couldn't open the car door.

"She looked at me, right in the eye, so calmly, too. She said, 'Tim, the baby's here,'" said her husband, the Rev. Timothy Brooks.

He reached to catch the baby, a 4-pound, 3-ounce girl the couple named Mackenzie Nichole Brooks, in the leg of the sweat pants his wife was wearing.

"It was just so fast," Charryse Brooks said. "It was like 'Boom!'"

Brooks, 26, who had been preparing a sermon for the one-year anniversary of becoming pastor at the Norwood Church of the Nazarene, took his wife and baby, still attached by the umbilical cord, to the hospital. His congregants in this Cincinnati suburb had to do without a sermon.

"They just went ahead and sang," he said.

Bank stops digital theft

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)—A gang of Swedish criminals was seconds away from completing a digital bank heist when an alert employee literally pulled the plug on their brazen scam, investigators said Wednesday.

The would be bank robbers had placed "advanced technical equipment" under the employee's desk that allowed them to take control of his computer remotely, prosecutor Thomas Balter Nordenman said in a statement.

The employee discovered the device shortly after he realized his computer had started an operation to transfer "millions" from the bank into another account, Nordenman said.

"By pulling out the cable to the device, the employee managed to stop the intended transfer at the last second," he said.

The foiled heist happened in August at a bank in Uppland county, north of Stockholm, police said. They announced it only Wednesday after seven suspects, all from the Stockholm region, were arrested this week while allegedly preparing another heist.

Police did not name the suspects, but said many of them have prior fraud and theft convictions. Investigators did not give other details on the device, or how it was placed under the desk.

Boy picks wrong place to park bike

SALEM, Ore. (AP)—If it's on the floor at the Goodwill store in Salem, it's for sale. So when Cody Young parked his bicycle in the wrong place, it got sold. Not only that, the bike that cost $232 four years ago went for $6.99. "That was just insulting," the seventh-grader said.

Young said he and friends went to the store on Sunday to look at speakers. He didn't have a lock, but his friends told him they'd previously parked inside the store. He left it near other bikes that were for sale. While they were shopping, his black BMX bike was sold.

Goodwill officials said they were looking into the sale. They said they were unable to identify the bike's purchaser.

Goodwill spokeswoman Dale Emanuel said the store doesn't permit bikes inside, to avoid just such mixups.

She said it's not the first such sale in Goodwill's busy Columbia Willamette system, which did $77 million in sales in 2006.

Once, Emanuel said, a janitor left a bucket and mop on the sales floor, and a store sold them the next day. "What goes on the floor sells," she said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Man nabbed for 4th time in meter thefts

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)—A suspected thief learned a valuable lesson last month after he blew a fuse while using a power drill to break into parking meters. Police said that the next time, he used a cordless drill. Police said William David Salisbury, 44, was so brazen that he plugged an extension cord for his drill outside the guardhouse on Dec. 22, blowing a circuit breaker. On Monday, Charleston police arrested Salisbury for the fourth time in five weeks and charged him with stealing from parking meters. Police believe he began to use an 18-volt cordless drill. In all, police said the suspect stole hundreds of dollars from at least 24 meters near the state Capitol over five weeks.

Woman with vomiting daughter gets ticket

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Gina Boyd's day already had soured when her 3-year-old daughter began vomiting in her Dodge Caravan. Then she got a traffic ticket. Boyd, 27, got a $123 citation from a Hillsborough County deputy on Monday after she made an improper U-turn to attend to her vomiting daughter. Boyd is a stay-at-home mother of three whose husband is in the Army. He is currently serving in Iraq. Boyd realizes she violated the law but wished the deputy had exercised discretion upon seeing why she had made the improper turn. Sheriff's spokeswoman Debbie Carter said Boyd committed an illegal U-turn and got a citation for it.

Man wins, then loses, then wins lottery

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—An Australian retiree won a $1.8 million lottery prize, then lost it, and then won it again Wednesday through a court ruling. Werner Reinhold bought the lottery ticket at a newsstand in Australia's largest city of Sydney on Sept. 19, 1995. His original ticket did not print correctly, so he asked for a new one, which turned out to be the winner. But when Reinhold, now 73, went back to claim the $1.8 million jackpot, he discovered that the replacement ticket had been canceled, not the misprinted original, and was unable to claim the prize. He sued NSW Lotteries, which oversees lottery tickets in New South Wales state, and the newsstand which sold him the ticket. Supreme Court Judge Reginald Barrett awarded Reinhold $1.8 million in damages, citing negligence and breach of contract by the newsstand and the state lottery company. Barrett had not yet ruled on what portion of the award each party should pay.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

ANNOUNCING THE ASSIGNMENT AND TRANSFER OF THE LOAN PORTFOLIO OF 137 LOAN ACCOUNTS FUNDED FROM THE CONSOLIDATED LOAN AGREEMENT, BETWEEN THE NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC) AND THE MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST (MPLT), FROM NMHC TO MPLT AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MPLT LOAN PORTFOLIO BY THE BANK OF SAIPAN

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) and the Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT) through their management and respective boards, are pleased to announce the assignment and transfer of the Loan Portfolio of approximately 137 loan accounts from NMHC to MPLT effective December 31, 2007.

On March 20, 2001 MPLT and NMHC entered into a Consolidated Loan Agreement wherein MPLT desired to make available to NMHC funds for the purpose of extending home loans to low income or first-time homeowners. The agreement flowed from a legislative pronouncement from the CNMI Legislature and Executive Branch supporting such an endeavor. The MPLT NMHC Agreement constituted an Economically Targeted Investment by MPLT in which the social benefits which would result from the agreement were primary over the general requirement to maximize returns on investments by the Trustees, The consolidated agreement was an extension of the original loan agreement executed on January 23, 1998. The total amount of the consolidated loan and MPLT's investment with NMHC was $10 million dollars. The payments due on the consolidated loan from NMHC to MPLT were affected by the moratorium imposed pursuant to Public Law 12-27. As a result of the statute, the payments which MPLT would have been paying to the General Fund pursuant to the trust in the Constitution were to be withheld and applied as a credit toward the payments due from NMHC. Recently, this moratorium was ultimately removed with the repeal through Public Law 15-48 which required NMHC to once again start making payments on the loan to MPLT. Due to the financial obligations of NMHC it became challenging for NMHC to service the loan payments to MPLT given the financial situation of the borrowers.

After discussions and after consideration of the overall financial situation in the CNMI, it is the desire of NMHC and MPLT to compromise and enter into an agreement whereby NMHC would assign to MPLT the portfolio of borrowers, approximately 170 accounts, who received loans from NMHC with funds from MPLT's investment. With the assignment of debts owed to NMHC over to MPLT, MPLT will now administer the loan portfolio through a Loan Administrator, the Bank of Saipan.

Pursuant to MPLT RFP 2007-001, MPLT solicited proposals from all banking institutions for the administration of the loan portfolio it would receive from NMHC. The Bank of Saipan submitted its proposal, proposing to charge a percentage of the overall portfolio for its administration. Administration means that the Bank of Saipan will act for MPLT, receive all loan payments; impose the applicable interest rate on each account; credit all payments; provide statements of account to each borrower; review each account for any delinquency; make demands for curing delinquency; and consult with MPLT regarding proceeding with any foreclosure actions for delinquent accounts.

However, the MPLT Board of Trustees is pleased with the selection of Bank of Saipan as the administrator given its record during the receivership proceedings to take and rehabilitate a substantially delinquent loan portfolio and turn them into performing accounts. At the same time, the Trustees have found that the Bank of Saipan has assembled an experienced team led by Ms. Lee Francia and Marvin Deleon Guerrero whom are able to work with the borrowers to ensure that this Economically Targeted Investment continues to provide the benefits to our community until the loans are satisfied. The Trustees are also considering other possible ways to assist the borrowers in the portfolio to succeed in paying off their mortgages and avoid delinquency including work-out plans and possible reductions in the mortgage interest rates. The Bank of Saipan is committed to this investment with MPLT.

Notices of Assignment are being sent to those borrowers whose accounts have been assigned from NMHC to MPLT. However, not all NMHC accounts have been assigned. Specifically, USDA Rural Housing Development Loan -Recipients; those whose accounts are with BankPacific; and those whose accounts are with the Bank of Hawaii will continue to make payment to NMHC or to each banking institution.

For the MPLT Portfolio, effective February 1st, borrowers will be able to make their payments at the Bank of Saipan branches on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Portfolio members may contact the Bank of Saipan and confer with Mr. Marvin Deleon Guerrero if they have any questions regarding their account.

Science & Technology

Damaged cables cut Internet in Mideast

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Internet outages disrupted business and personal usage across a wide swathe of the Middle East on Wednesday after two undersea cables in the Mediterranean were damaged, government officials and Internet service providers said.

In Cairo, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology said the cut of the international communications cables Flag and Seamewe 4 had led to a partial disruption of Internet services and other telecommunications across much of Egypt.

Emergency teams were quickly trying to find alternative routes, including satellite connections, to end the disruptions, Minister Tariq Kamel said.

A telecommunications expert at the Egyptian communications ministry, Rafaat Hindy, cautioned that "solving this could take days."

TeleGeography, a U.S. research group that tracks submarine cables around the world, said the severed lines account for 75 percent of the capacity connecting Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries to Europe.

It would take "a few days up to one week before submarine cable operators deploy ships to bring the cables up and fix the fault," said Eric Schoonover, senior research analyst at TeleGeography.

It was not clear what caused the damage to the cable.

Schoonover said there has been speculation by others that an illegally or improperly anchored ship caused the problem. Cables get damaged all the time but Schoonover believes this was the first time two undersea cables near each other were cut at the same time.

Phone lines in Egypt still work, indicating "network operators in the area are rerouting traffic through emergency channels," Schoonover said. He said alternate paths include going "around India and back through Asia to the U.S."

EBAY TWEAKS AP

EBay mugs are seen on sale at eBay Inc. headquarters in San Jose, Calif., Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2007. EBay Inc. said Tuesday it will cut by up to 50 percent the fees it charges sellers to list their goods online, in an effort to boost listings and keep pace with other burgeoning e-commerce sites. EBay Inc. also says it's changing its user-feedback system to keep buyers from leaving, but the plan has sellers worried they'll no longer be able to weed out untrustworthy shoppers. Buyers and sellers have been able to rate each other at the online auctioneer since its birth in 1995. Come Feb. 20, a full spectrum of feedback is welcome from buyers about sellers, while sellers can no longer give buyers negative star ratings.

Study: US broadband goal nearly reached

WASHINGTON (AP)—In 2004, President Bush pledged that all Americans should have affordable access to high-speed Internet service by 2007. A report to be released Thursday by the administration says it has succeeded—mostly.

"Networked Nation: Broadband in America" is an upbeat assessment of the administration's efforts to spur growth and competition in the high-speed Internet market. Critics said the report's conclusion is too rosy.

The report was prepared by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, an agency within the Commerce Department that acts as the president's principal adviser on telecommunications and information policy issues.

The report concludes that "a reasonable assessment of the available data indicates" that the objective of affordable access to broadband for all has been realized "to a very great degree."

Richard Russell, deputy director for technology in the executive office of the president, also answered the question in the affirmative, but with a caveat.

Confusion reigns over TV transition

WASHINGTON (AP)—Much of what consumers are learning about the looming shift to digital broadcasting is just plain wrong and could end up costing them money, according to a survey.

Some people think they need to buy new equipment when they don't, according to a Consumers Union survey, and others say they don't plan on taking any steps to deal with the change when they should.

"Confusion about the digital television transition will cost consumers a lot of money for equipment they may not want or need," Joel Kelsey, policy analyst for the Consumers Union, said Wednesday.

Starting Feb. 18, 2009, full-power television stations in the U.S. will turn off their old-technology analog signals and broadcast only in a digital format, potentially leaving millions of televisions displaying nothing but snow.

Consumers Union, the nonprofit publisher of Consumer Reports magazine, says 36 percent of respondents in its survey were unaware of the transition—a big number, but much lower than what has been reported in studies from a year ago.

The great majority of consumers—anyone whose television is hooked up to a cable or satellite service or owns a digital set—will not be affected. Anyone who owns an older television that gets its signal via antenna, however, will need a converter box, which the government will help pay for.

TECHBIT

Japan lacks virus laws

TOKYO (AP)—Police investigating a man for allegedly spreading a computer virus had to arrest him on a copyright infringement charge because Japan lacks laws against malicious computer programs, a police officer said Friday.

Masato Nakatsuji, 24, a graduate student at Osaka Electro-Communication University, is suspected of illegally copying and distributing over the Internet an image from the Japanese animation film "Clannad" showing a woman walking amid falling cherry blossoms.

But Nakatsuji also allegedly embedded the image in the "Harada virus," one of Japan's "Big Three" viruses, a Kyoto police officer said on the customary condition of anonymity.

Police said it was the first arrest in Japan involving making or spreading viruses.

Although computer viruses have wreaked havoc around the world for more than two decades, Japan has been slow to pass legislation to crack down on people who make and spread the potentially destructive programs.

In the latest case, police considered other charges, including damage to property and obstructing business, before deciding that copyright violation charges would hold up best in court, the officer said.

Nakatsuji, who is not suspected of creating the virus, was in police custody and not immediately available for comment. Police said he isn't contesting the charges.

Downloading the Harada virus with the animated image destroyed data and spread on the Internet information stored in computers hit by the virus, according to police.

The virus was also spread through an illegal Japanese file-sharing software program called Winny. The extent of the damage has not yet been disclosed, the Kyoto officer said.

Koji Namikoshi, spokesman for the university where Nakatsuji was researching laser technology, said the university is strengthening instruction on ethical uses of the Internet.

"But the only illegality is copyright," he said. "Something is wrong."

The maximum punishment for copyright infringement is 10 years in prison and fines of 10 million yen, or $93,000.

Life & Style

Marvel Comics revives Capt. America

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It turns out you can't keep a good man down—or even dead and buried—when he wears a red, white and blue uniform and calls himself Captain America. Marvel Comics, which killed off the veteran superhero almost a year ago, brought him back to life Wednesday—sort of.

Captain America's alter-ego, Steve Rogers, is still resting in peace at Arlington National Cemetery, having been done in by assassins last March. But his good buddy and sidekick from the 1940s, Bucky Barnes, has picked up the bulletproof Captain America shield, put on a new uniform and taken his place.

What's that you say? Wouldn't Bucky be about 85 years old now? And without any real super powers to fall back on, isn't that kind of long in the tooth to be taking a bite out of crime?

Well, yeah. But remember, this is the comic book world we're talking about. Bucky was put in suspended animation by the evil Russians (back when they were evil) and stayed that way for the better part of 60 years.

"So he's probably in his late 20s right now," jokes Marvel Editor in Chief Joe Quesada, who decided to promote him to Captain America.

Rogers' old sidekick had already returned to the Marvel pantheon of heroes some time back as the rugged Winter Soldier, redeeming himself for the years he'd spent under the control of the bad guys, who would occasionally thaw him out for evil deeds.

"We were toying with the idea of someone new taking over the mantle of Captain America," Quesada said by phone from his New York office. "But we kept coming back to Bucky. Not only because he seemed such an obvious choice but especially because of the fact that when we brought him back as the Winter Soldier he was so incredibly popular."

Barnes never swallowed the "Super Soldier Serum" that transformed the wimpy Rogers into the super-strong Captain America in the months before World War II. So he's at a bit of a disadvantage in his new role. But he's bulked up himself over the years, become a master at special operations and he's also packing some serious heat these days along with that mask and shield.

Doris Lessing receives Nobel prize

LONDON (AP)—Nobel literature laureate Doris Lessing, who greeted news of her victory with the words, "I couldn't care less," received her prize Wednesday night at a champagne reception in London.

The 88-year-old writer was still not entirely overwhelmed by the honor.

"There isn't anywhere to go from here, is there?" she said, before thinking of one more accolade: "I could receive a pat on the head from the pope."

Lessing, whose back problems prevented her from traveling to Stockholm for the official Nobel prize-giving ceremony Dec. 10., was given the gold Nobel prize by Swedish Ambassador Staffan Carlsson amid the Old Master paintings of the Wallace Collection art gallery in London.

Carlsson called her "forever young and wise, old and rebellious ... the least ingratiating of writers."

Born in Persia—now Iran—and raised in what is now Zimbabwe, Lessing drew on her experiences in colonial Africa for her debut novel, "The Grass Is Singing," published in 1950. Her most influential book is probably "The Golden Notebook," published in 1962 and considered a feminist classic.

AP

Doris Lessing holds up the 2007 Nobel Prize for Literature medal after being presented it by the Ambassador of Sweden, Staffan Carlsson, during a ceremony at the Wallace Collection art gallery in London, Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008.

The author of more than 50 novels, volumes of short stories, memoirs and plays, Lessing was announced as the 2007 Nobel Literature laureate in October. The Swedish Academy, which awards the $1.5 million prize, praised her "skepticism, fire and visionary power."

Lessing was both skeptical and fiery when told she had won by reporters waiting outside her London house.

"Oh Christ, I couldn't care less," she said. "This has been going on for 30 years. I've won all the prizes in Europe, every bloody one, so I'm delighted to win them all. It's a royal flush."

Lessing has long been known for her fierce and often contrary opinions.

In October, she told a Spanish newspaper that the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks were "neither as terrible nor as extraordinary" as many people think.

"Sept. 11 was terrible, but if one goes back over the history of the IRA, what happened to the Americans wasn't that terrible," she told El Pais.

Her Nobel acceptance speech—delivered in Stockholm last month by her publisher, Nicholas Pearson—was titled "On Not Winning the Nobel Prize."

Message of Appreciation

Rosa Taman Maliti-Fejeran

"Litefongoosch"

At a time when our hearts are filled with pain and loss, it is through the unconditional love, care, support, and prayers you've shared that has given us strength in each passing day.

We thank our heavenly Father for blessing us seventy-two beautiful years with our beloved Mother. As she moves on to her new life in God's grace, her tender spirit and loving memory forever remains in our hearts.

Our sincere gratitude to our families, relatives and friends for their thoughts, prayers, and generosity. We're forever grateful and embrace you all close to our hearts and prayers.

A Special thank to Bishop Thomas A. Camacho and clergy, Father Ray Rosal, our techas Rosa Waraki, Felicita Lisua, and Benjamin Seman, Saint Clare Hospital in Tacoma, Swedish Medical Center in Seattle, Public Laison Office (Governor's Office), Cabrera Funeral Service, Cursillo Movement, Christian Mothers, San Jose choirs, Tala and the Ali'is Group, Samoan Community, Mrs. Rita Billy (Chuukese Choir), Chuukese Community, CUC, Mayors Office, DPS, CHC Physician, Nurses and staff.

Thank you, Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Oloomway, Ghilisoow Remi, Fa'afetai Lava and Kamsa Hameda.

With loving thoughts and caring hearts,
Children

Mother

She's sweeter than the fragrances
That fill the well in spring
A joy she is above the joys
That all the years can bring.

She's dearer than the dearest friend
That I will ever know,
Her prayers even guide me on
No matter where I go.

Her face is burrowed deep with cares
Her hair is streaked with gray,
And rosary beads slip through the hands
That first joined mine to pray.

And through the years have dimmed those eyes
That were so lustrous fait,
'Tis death alone can take away
The love-light shining there.

At night when kneeling down to pray
I thank our Lord above
Who was good to give me
My mother's deathless love.

Boy soldier defends his book

NEW YORK (AP)—Ishmael Beah, author of a best-selling memoir about his time as a boy soldier in Sierra Leone, disputes newspaper reports that he had exaggerated his war service, telling The Associated Press on Wednesday that he will "stand by" what he wrote.

The 27-year-old Beah, whose "A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier" has nearly 700,000 copies in print, has written that he spent more than two years in the government army during Sierra Leone's civil war in the 1990s. He is now an international spokesman for human rights who last fall was appointed UNICEF's Advocate for Children Affected by War.

But in a series of articles, The Australian has quoted several residents in and around Mattru Jong, not far from Beah's native Mogbwemo, questioning how long Beah actually served.

According to "A Long Way Gone," Beah, separated from his family when war struck, was driven first from Mogbwemo, then from Mattru Jong after rebels attacked in early 1993. Twelve years old at the time, he spent months wandering homeless with a few other boys and was eventually forced to fight for the government, serving more than two years before he was rescued by UNICEF in early 1996. He emigrated to the United States in 1998, graduated from Oberlin College in 2004 and now lives in New York City.

According to The Australian, the Mattru Jong battle described by Beah actually happened in early 1995, making his time in the army at most a few months. Instead, the newspaper quotes residents who say that Beah was in school in 1993 and 1994. While no one is challenging the horror he endured, the altered timeline would affect the balance of a book praised as an unprecedented narrative of a child turned soldier.

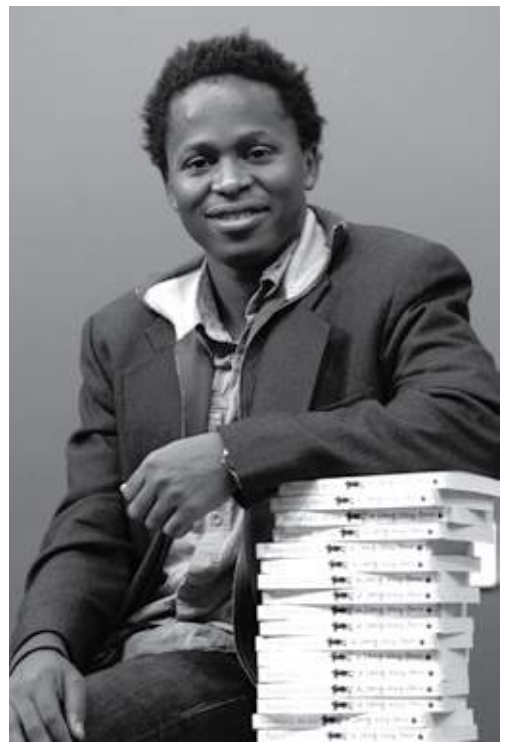
"I have tried to think deeply about this," Beah, speaking by cell phone in London where he was promoting the paperback edition of the book, said in his first extended comments about the controversy since The Australian's first story appeared in Jan. 19-20 editions. "And my memory only gives me 1993 and nothing more. And that's what I stand by."

The Australian's investigation began after an Australian, Bob Lloyd, living in Sierra Leone and working near Mattru Jong, read the book and became aware of possible discrepancies. Lloyd confirmed the findings to the AP, but otherwise declined comment.

Beah's book was published in 2007 to great acclaim and some skepticism, with a handful of reviewers questioning how he could recall events that happened a decade earlier, when he was in his early-mid teens, continuously endangered and on the run and, by his own account, often under the influence of drugs.

"Who of us in our '20s could accurately summon up our day-by-day lives as preteens? As you read `A Long Way Gone,' the details allow you to distinguish precise recall from autobiographical blur," William Boyd, who called the book a landmark of wartime writing, wrote in The New York Times.

"The horror is duly registered, but its vagueness and generality don't add up to moments of lived personal history. Indeed, Beah's time in the army, and the accounts of the patrols and firefights he was caught up in, represent only a small portion of this book. And who can blame him? The blood-lust of a drug-crazed adolescent on the rampage with an assault rifle would challenge the descriptive powers of James Joyce."



AP

Ishmael Beah from Sierra Leone, author of the book 'A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a boy soldier' poses after a book signing session at Brunel University in west London, Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008.

Oscars contingency plan in the works

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An Oscars contingency plan that would include history, film clips and out-of-the-ordinary concepts for the awards show is in the works, academy president Sid Ganis told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

With the writers strike dragging dangerously close to the Feb. 24 telecast, the film academy is planning two Oscar shows: "The show we would love to do and ... a show that we would prefer not to do," Ganis said.

The traditional, star-studded glamour-fest is in the works in case an agreement is reached. If not, organizers are working on a second show that will include "history and packages of film and concepts that are not normally ones that we would have for the show if we were moving straight ahead."

The show will go on regardless of talks status, he said.

"We have an obligation to the art form to present the Oscars, so we have to deal with the possibility of not being able to do the show because of pickets or agreements not being concluded," Ganis said.

Meanwhile, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is talking with striking writers, said spokeswoman Leslie Unger. She declined to provide details.

5th Death Anniversary

In loving memory of our beloved

MAMETTO ULLOA MARATITA

"Mamet"

We wish to inform our relatives and friends that the Holy Rosary for the repose of the soul of our beloved Mamet is being prayed beginning Sunday, January 27th, 2008 to Sunday, February 3rd, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at his mother's residence in San Antonio Village. Final holy rosary will be on Monday, February 4th 2008 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Jude Church followed by Holy Mass at 6:00 p.m.

As a token of our appreciation, we cordially invite you to join us for dinner after the Mass at the family's residence.

Your thoughts, prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

Sen Dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Mrs. Maria U. Maratita, children, and family

Forbes: Madonna richest woman in music

NEW YORK (AP)—Madonna is the richest woman in music. The 49-year-old entertainer leads Forbes.com's list of the top 20 "Cash Queens of Music," earning $72 million between June 2006 and June 2007.

The pop star's "Confessions" world tour pulled in $260 million, Forbes said. She also made money from album sales, her fashion line with H&M and a deal with NBC to broadcast her concert performance at London's Wembley Stadium.

Forbes.com said it compiled the list by examining concert grosses, merchandising revenue, album sales and other revenue from clothing lines, fragrance deals and endorsements.

Barbra Streisand is No. 2 with $60 million, thanks to her comeback tour of North America and Europe.

Celine Dion ranks third with $45 million, largely from her successful "A New Day" show in Las Vegas, which she wrapped up in December after a five-year engagement at Caesars Palace.

Shakira is fourth with $38 million, followed by Beyonce ($27 million), Gwen Stefani ($26 million), Christina Aguilera ($20 million), Faith Hill ($19 million), the Dixie Chicks ($18 million) and Mariah Carey ($13 million).

Hilary Duff, Avril Lavigne and Martina McBride each banked $12 million.

Britney Spears ranked 14th on the list, earning $8 million from music royalties and sales of her fragrances with Elizabeth Arden.

Spears is followed by Carrie Underwood and Nelly Furtado ($7 million each); Fergie, Jennifer Lopez and Sheryl Crow ($6 million each); and Norah Jones ($5.5 million).

Singer-actress Madonna is shown in this Dec. 2, 2007, file photo in New York. AP

Smith's ex: Stern took photos of body

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—A former companion of Anna Nicole Smith said Wednesday that her attorney-turned-boyfriend Howard K. Stern took several photographs of the collapsed body of her late 20-year-old son for profit.

G. Ben Thompson, a South Carolina developer, testified that Stern took about four pictures of Daniel Smith's body after he died Sept. 10, 2006, while visiting his celebrity mother three days after she gave birth to her daughter in a Bahamian hospital.

Stern said the photographs "might be worth some money one day," according to Thompson, who was embroiled in an ownership dispute with Stern over the Nassau mansion where he lived with Anna Nicole before her Feb. 8 death of a prescription drug overdose.

"I was totally shocked he was taking pictures of a dead child laying in that bed," Thompson testified at the inquest into the death while being questioned by an attorney for Anna Nicole's long-estranged mother, Virgie Arthur.

Stern's attorney Shaka Serville said Thompson first made the allegations in October 2007 while appearing on a TV show hosted by Geraldo Rivera. Serville accused him of fabricating the statement about Stern as retaliation over the dispute for the $900,000 estate.

Thompson, who briefly dated Anna Nicole, says he advanced her money for the Nassau mansion but she did not honor an agreement to repay the debt. Anna Nicole, who lived there with Stern in the months before her death, claimed the house was a gift.

Serville said that Stern, who is the executor of Anna Nicole's estate, took the photographs of the young man's body to prove to her that Daniel was indeed dead. Witnesses have said she was highly distraught after his collapse.

The developer's son, Gayther Thompson, also testified Wednesday. He alleged that Stern appeared to dispose of two white pills that he had found in Daniel's clothes after his collapse in the hospital room.

An autopsy concluded that Daniel Smith died from a combination of drugs, including methadone and antidepressants. Police have said there is no evidence of homicide. So far, about 32 witnesses have testified before a Bahamian jury, which will formally determine what killed him.

Testimony in the inquest is adjourned until March 17, while court officials seek testimony from witnesses including Anna Nicole's ex-boyfriend Larry Birkhead, the father of the late Playboy Playmate's 1-year-old daughter.

Duane Chapman free from Mexican charges

HONOLULU (AP)—Duane "Dog" Chapman cannot be extradited to Mexico to face criminal charges in his capture of serial rapist and fugitive Andrew Luster in 2003, a three-judge panel in Mexico has ruled.

The unanimous ruling was handed down Tuesday. The TV bounty hunter, his son Leland Chapman and associate Tim Chapman faced being sent to the resort town of Puerto Vallarta, where they captured Luster, who had jumped a $1 million bond on charges that he drugged and raped three women.

"He's a free man," Chapman's San Francisco-based attorney, James A. Quadra, said in a telephone interview late Tuesday. "They can't reinstate any criminal charges and as a result of that, there's no basis for them to then seek extradition."

AP

Duane "Dog" Chapman star of the reality TV series "Dog, The Bounty Hunter" is seen Friday, Oct. 20, 2006, following a press conference in Honolulu, in this Oct. 20, 2006, file photo.

Luster's disappearance during his trial in California set off an international manhunt by police, FBI and bounty hunters trying to recoup some of the bond money. After his capture, he was taken back to the U.S. to serve a 124-year prison sentence.

Because bounty hunting is illegal in Mexico, prosecutors in that country charged the trio with detaining Luster and asked U.S. authorities to arrest Chapman and his colleagues and send them to Mexico.

"The three of them—Duane, Leland and Tim—have always been absolutely certain they did the right thing and proud of what they accomplished," Quadra said.

A judge in Mexico dismissed the deprivation of liberty charges in July, ruling prosecutors had taken too long in their attempts to bring the trio to trial. But Mexican prosecutors appealed the ruling.

"We are ecstatic that this nightmare is finally over, and happy to see the Mexican justice system works," Chapman and his wife, Beth, said in a statement. "We can all now move forward."

Quadra said Chapman and his crew could return to Mexico one day.

"Dog loves what he does. He likes to capture the bad guy. If a bad guy is in Mexico, who knows what Dog will do in the future," he said. "At this point, he wants to relax and enjoy the fact he doesn't have this hanging over his head. The future will bring what the future brings, but I don't think Dog is going to sit quietly."

The A&E network put Chapman's "Dog the Bounty Hunter" show indefinitely on hold last November after a private phone conversation between the reality star and his son Tucker was posted online.

The National Enquirer posted an audio clip of Chapman using a slur repeatedly in reference to his son's black girlfriend.

Chapman apologized and vowed to never utter the word again. He has met with several black leaders over the past several months.

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Sweeny Todd: Demon Barber

Friday		4:05	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:25	

Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter
Thriller, Musical • Rated R

Synopsis
Benjamin Barker, a man unjustly sent to prison by a lecherous judge, vows revenge, not only for that cruel punishment, but for the devastating consequences of what happened to his wife and daughter. When he returns to reopen his barber shop, Sweeney Todd becomes the Demon Barber of Fleet Street who "shaved the heads of gentlemen who never thereafter were heard from again."

★ ★ ★

Meet the Spartans

Friday		4:20	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:15	4:20	7:10	9:35
Sunday	1:15	4:20	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:10	

Diedrich Bader, Kevin Sorbo
Comedy • Rated PG13

Synopsis
From the creators of Scary Movie and Date Movie comes this tongue-in-cheek parody of the sword-and-sandal epics, dubbed Meet the Spartans. The 20th Century Fox production is written and directed by the filmmaking team of Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer. Sure Leonidas may have nothing more than a cape and some leather underwear to protect him from the razor sharp swords of his Persian enemies, but that won't stop the brave leader and his team of thirteen warriors from defending their beloved homeland against a powerful invading force that includes the likes of a mutant Paris Hilton, the Transformers, the Ghost Rider and Rocky Balboa.

Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo

Friday		4:30	7:05	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:05	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:05	

Judy Ann Santos, Ryan Agoncillo
Comedy, Romance • Rated NR

Synopsis
Angie (Judy Ann Santos) and Jed (Ryan Agoncillo) are first-time parents who experience the joys and pains of raising a child. They realize that parenthood is extremely demanding that they learn to sacrifice their own interests for their baby. One day, Jed has to go abroad for a business convention. Angie decides to go along, leaving their child with their friends. This is when their mothers (Gloria Diaz and Gina Pareño) come in and take turns taking care of their child, which led to a total disaster.

Cloverfield

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Michael Stahl David, Mike Vogel
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13

27 Dresses

Friday		4:15	7:20	10:00
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:20	10:00
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:20	

Katherine Heigl, James Marsden
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG13

The Bucket List

Friday		4:10	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:15	9:30
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:15	

Jack Nicholson, Morgan Freeman
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13

Mad Money

Friday		4:25	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:30	

Diane Keaton, Queen Latifah
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPERSAVERS

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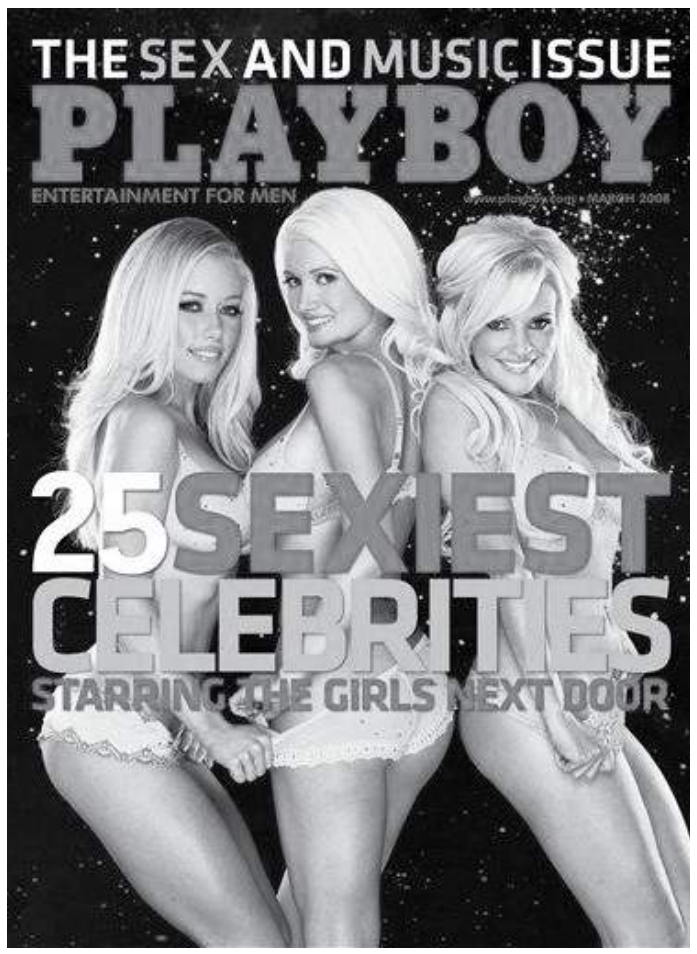
Third cover for 'Girls Next Door'

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Three is the magic number for Playboy magazine's March issue. Holly Madison, Bridget Marquardt and Kendra Wilkinson—better known as Hugh Hefner's trio of blonde girlfriends from E!'s "The Girls Next Door" reality series—will appear for the third time on the cover of Playboy.

"It kinda happened by accident," Hefner told The Associated Press. "It was not the original plan. I knew we were overdue for a cover featuring the girls. For our annual sexiest celebrities list, we always get votes from readers on the Internet of who should be on the top of the list. Lo and behold, as the votes were coming in, we found the girls moving up higher and higher on the list."

Madison, Marquardt and Wilkinson will be featured together in three different covers for the "25 Sexiest Celebrities" issue. In the newsstand edition cover image, out Feb. 8, the women are clad in glittery lingerie in front of a starry backdrop.



In this image released by Playboy Enterprises, the cover of Playboy's March 2008 issue, featuring, "The Girls Next Door's" Kendra Wilkinson, left, Holly Madison, center, and Bridget Marquardt, is shown. AP

"To be perfectly frank, I have unexpectedly fallen in love," Hefner said of his ongoing relationship with the three women. "It is the relationship with Holly that will probably last forever. The others will last for as long as they want it to last before going on with their careers and lives."

Among the celebrities to make Playboy's list are Jennifer Love Hewitt, Alicia Keys, Cameron Diaz, Beyonce, Christina Aguilera and Britney Spears. Hefner said the top three online celebrity vote-getters were Angelina Jolie, Scarlett Johansson and Jessica Alba, with "The Girls Next Door" coming in fourth place.

"Yes, there was some favoritism involved," Hefner joked. "I know them personally."

No verdict yet in Snipes case

OCALA, Fla. (AP)—The jury in actor Wesley Snipes' tax case passed its first full day of deliberation Wednesday without a verdict.

Snipes and two co-defendants are accused of fraud and conspiracy in an eight-count indictment from 2006. The action star faces six additional charges for failing to file tax returns from 1999-2004.

The IRS alleges Snipes, Eddie Ray Kahn and Douglas P. Rosile engaged them in a long fight insisting the actor didn't owe any taxes. The government must prove not only that Snipes and company broke the law, but that they meant to.

Snipes' lawyers say he was a victim of bad financial advice, and sincerely believed he didn't have to pay the government anything.

'Dr. Phil' regrets talking about Spears

NEW YORK (AP)—Television's "Dr. Phil" McGraw says he regrets talking about Britney Spears' mental health after visiting her in the hospital, but didn't violate the family's trust.

"I regret making the statement. It didn't help. It didn't work," the syndicated TV psychologist said Wednesday on ABC's "Good Morning America."

Spears, 26, was hospitalized in Los Angeles after a child custody dispute with ex-husband Kevin Federline resulted in an hours-long standoff with police Jan. 3. Federline has sole physical and legal custody of their two sons, Sean Preston, 2, and Jayden James, 1.

McGraw said he visited the pop singer as a family friend, and rejected critics who accused him of practicing psychology without a license.

"I did not go there to diagnose her. I did not go there to treat her," said McGraw, who showed up at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center on Jan. 5 as Spears was about to be discharged.

McGraw said he retired his Texas license after 25 years of private practice because of the demands of his "Dr. Phil" daytime talk show.

The Spears family has accused McGraw of betraying their trust by making an "inappropriate" public statement about the singer's hospitalization.

McGraw had told celebrity news TV shows that Spears was in "dire" need of medical and psychological help.

In an appearance on NBC's "Today" show Wednesday, McGraw said his public comments after visiting Spears were intended to prevent rumors and misinformation.

Inquest resumes in Daniel Smith's death

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—An inquest into the death of Anna Nicole Smith's 20-year-old son was to continue Wednesday with South Carolina developer G. Ben Thompson among those expected to testify.

Thompson, one of her ex-boyfriends, was involved in an ownership dispute over the house in the Bahamas where the reality TV star lived with attorney-turned-boyfriend Howard K. Stern before she died last year from an overdose of prescription drugs.

Larry Birkhead, the father of her 1-year-old daughter, Dannielynn, may appear at court sessions in February or March, said Neil Braithwaite, senior counsel in the attorney general's office.

Illness has kept Birkhead from traveling to the Bahamas, a government lawyer said Wednesday.

So far, about 30 witnesses have testified before a seven-member jury, which will formally determine what killed Daniel Smith. The jury can recommend criminal charges if it finds evidence of wrongdoing.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Ethan Hawke, girlfriend expecting a baby

NEW YORK (AP)—Ethan Hawke and his girlfriend, Ryan Shawhughes, are expecting a baby. "I can confirm and they are thrilled," Hawke's publicist, Mara Buxbaum, told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "No further details will be made available," Buxbaum said in an e-mail. Hawke, 37, has two children from his marriage to Uma Thurman. His screen credits include "Training Day," "Dead Poets Society," "Great Expectations" and "Before Sunset."

'Hillbillies' star girlfriend dies

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP)—The live-in girlfriend of former "Beverly Hillbillies" star Max Baer Jr. apparently shot herself and died several days later, authorities said Wednesday. Police were still investigating the death of 30-year-old Chere Rhodes, but no foul play is suspected, Douglas County Sheriff's Sgt. Jim Halsey said. Baer, 70, an entrepreneur who played "Jethro" in the 1960s "Hillbillies" series, summoned authorities to his Lake Tahoe home last Thursday after he found Rhodes with a single gunshot wound to the chest, Halsey said. "She was conscious on the scene and told (officers) that it was a self-attempted suicide," Halsey said. "There was a suicide note as well which substantiated her statement." He said the handwritten note cited "relationship problems." She was flown by helicopter to Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno and placed on life support. Her family took her off life support Sunday, Halsey said. Baer, son of Max Baer, the heavyweight champion of the 1930s, has lived at Lake Tahoe for years. He's currently trying to build a hotel-casino in northern Douglas County that would include a signature oil derrick evoking the "Hillbillies" sitcom theme of dimwitted Jethro Bodine, played by Baer, and other members of his family striking oil.

Montel Williams' talk show to end

NEW YORK (AP)—Syndicated talk show host Montel Williams is being replaced by a younger version of himself. CBS Television Distribution announced Wednesday that "The Montel Williams Show" will cease production after this television season, his 17th on the air. Instead, stations that carried his show will be offered a series of Williams reruns. "Best of Montel" will be 52 weeks worth of "some of the most exciting episodes" from the show's history, the producers said. "I can't say thank you enough to those who've welcomed me into their homes for the past 17 years," Williams said. "It has been both an honor and a joy."

Man is at war with himself trying to trust his lover

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been seeing "Dawn" for a year and a half. Early in our relationship she cheated on me. I love Dawn more than I have loved anyone before, but I can't bring myself to completely trust her.

She wants to move in with me now. My heart and my brain are telling me two different things. What do I do?

—AMBIVALENT IN YAPHANK, N.Y.

DEAR AMBIVALENT: Listen to the organ that thinks.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I work at a university, in an office that caters to student needs. Therefore, there is constant traffic consisting of students, faculty and staff.

I share space with a 22-year-old administrative assistant, and our office is flooded with music throughout the day. I realize that some people "need" noise, but I am not one of them. It's challenging to meet and advise students in this semi-private environment while music is blaring, and even daily tasks and phone calls are an issue. On occasion, the selections are inappropriate for the office.

She is a nice girl, but how do I approach her and/or my supervisor without sounding like a tattletale or a complainer?

—HAD IT WITH THE SOUND TRACK

DEAR HAD IT: If you haven't already done so, talk with the young woman and explain that while some people love music while they work, others are distracted by it and find it difficult to function, and you fall into that category. If she's unwilling to cooperate after that, then perhaps your supervisor can help her see the light.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 6-year-old nephew, "Andy," is destructive. He lies constantly and frequently steals small items.

I offered to assist my sister, "Mary," by baby-sitting Andy when she began working again after her divorce became final. Day-care is extremely expensive, and I doubted she could afford it. This was over a year ago, and the problems started right away.

After the most recent occurrence, I finally went ballistic even though the items Andy stole cost only 33 cents. I have had it! When Andy is confronted, he always says someone else did it (I have children of my own), that someone gave it to him (which has never been the case), "it was an accident" or "it was already like that" (half the time either my husband or I had seen him break the item). Andy has never admitted what he has done or said he was sorry.

I finally informed Mary that I'm no longer available to watch her son due to his outrageous behavior, and I never want him in my house again. I haven't spoken to my sister in months. I see no future for Andy except prison. Is there a program for someone like him to prevent that in the future?

—AT A LOSS IN MISSOURI

DEAR AT A LOSS: Your nephew is a very angry little boy. Not only has Andy lost his father, but his mother has gone from being a full-time mommy into the workforce while he was left in a household where he is no longer the center of attention. In addition, he may also have some emotional problems or learning disabilities.

Giving your sister the silent treatment isn't the answer. Her son should be evaluated by a mental health professional, and the place to start is by asking the boy's pediatrician for a referral. Please urge her to do it ASAP.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

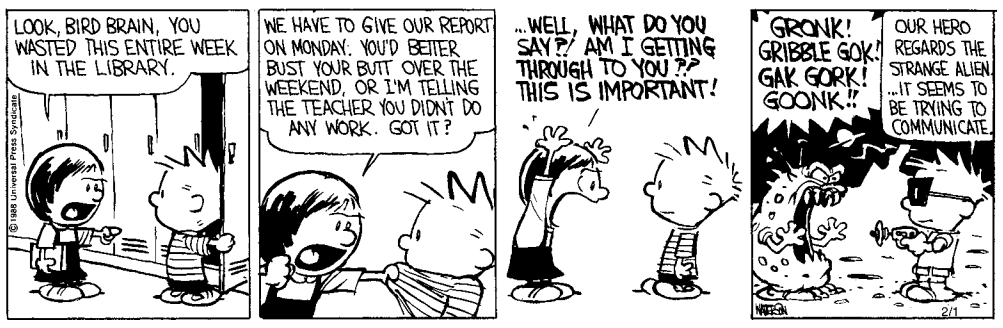
■ ■ ■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


LOOK, BIRD BRAIN, YOU WASTED THIS ENTIRE WEEK IN THE LIBRARY.
WE HAVE TO GIVE OUR REPORT ON MONDAY. YOU'D BETTER BUST YOUR BUTT OVER THE WEEKEND, OR I'M TELLING THE TEACHER YOU DIDN'T DO ANY WORK. GOT IT?
...WELL, WHAT DO YOU SAY?! AM I GETTING THROUGH TO YOU?! THIS IS IMPORTANT!
GRONK! GRIBBLE GOK! GAK GORK! GOONK!!
OUR HERO REGARDS THE STRANGE ALIEN ...IT SEEMS TO BE TRYING TO COMMUNICATE.
2/1

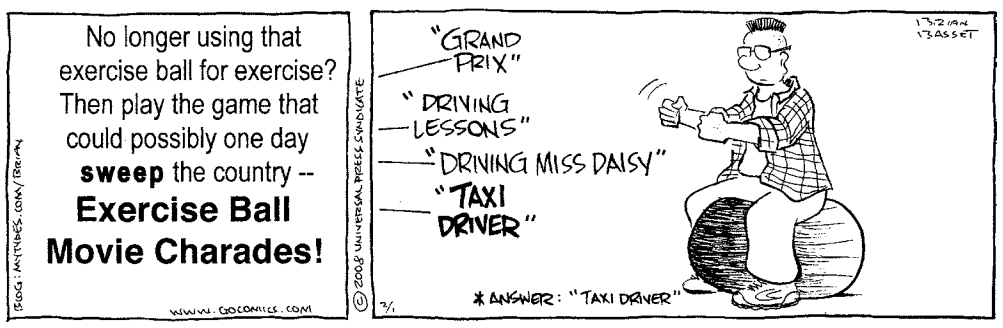
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'VE DECIDED TO CHANGE MY ATTITUDE TOWARD MORNINGS, GARFIELD
JIM DAVIS 2-1
MY NEW MOTTO IS "MORNINGS HAPPEN!"
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HOW ABOUT "EVIL THINGS HAPPEN TO MORNING PEOPLE"?

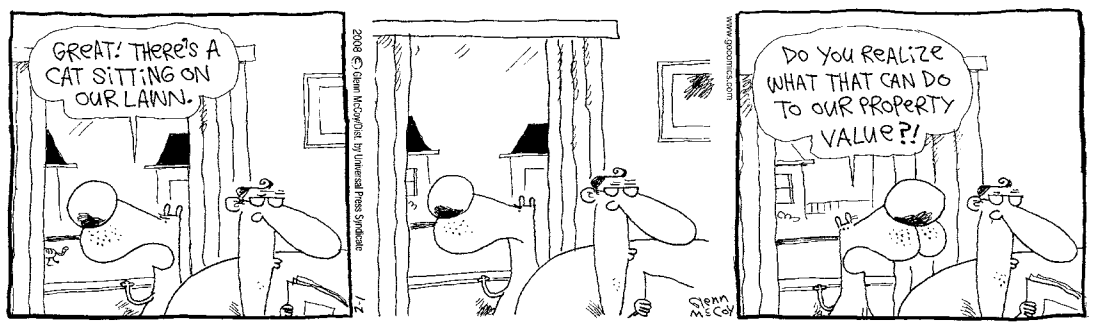
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


No longer using that exercise ball for exercise? Then play the game that could possibly one day sweep the country -- Exercise Ball Movie Charades!
"GRAND PRIX"
"DRIVING LESSONS"
"DRIVING MISS DAISY"
"TAXI DRIVER"
* ANSWER: "TAXI DRIVER"
BRIAN BASSET
2/1

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Not at all
6 Unruly hairdo
9 Frivolous one of song
12 Phantom's domain
13 Parisian pal
14 Spy novel org.
15 Eye doctor's subjects
16 Huge sandwich eponym
18 Marvel
20 Ship's framework
21 Faraway craft
23 "Hazel" cartoonist Key
24 High nest
25 Aerobatic maneuver
27 Aristocratic
29 Caterina de' —
31 Former Houston team
35 Detroit dud
37 Pivot
38 Racing shell
41 Greek consonants
43 Kitten's remark
44 As well
45 Give
47 Kansas city
49 Concerning
52 Droop
53 Newton filler
54 Bullwinkle is one
55 Noshed
56 Pub brew
57 Go by bike

DOWN
1 Soc. Sec. designations
2 Choose
3 16th-century author John
4 Hydrox competitor
5 Failed to be
6 Eked out a living
7 Sharif or Epps
8 Glutton
9 Clean the pots and pans
10 Garlic mayonnaise
11 Punchbowl accessory
17 Transportation, slangily
19 Jeans material
21 Einstein's birthplace
22 Adversary
24 Actress Larter
26 It's higher when the head is removed
28 Paycheck extra
30 Animation frame
32 — Park, Illinois
33 Regret
34 Stitch
36 Tense
38 Burrito enhancer
39 Sportsshoe attachment
40 Grammarian's concern
42 Philatelist's prize
45 Seethe
46 Reed instrument
48 Son-gun link
50 "Born in the —"
51 Part of AT&T

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	E	M	I	■	P	A	W	■	S	P	O	T
A	D	A	M	■	A	S	H	■	L	A	S	H
K	E	L	P	■	S	K	I	■	I	S	L	E
I	N	L	A	W	S	■	G	O	D	S	O	N
■	■	■	L	E	K	■	■	R	E	P	■	■
P	A	P	A	■	E	M	P	E	R	O	R	S
A	L	A	■	■	Y	E	A	■	■	R	A	P
D	I	S	G	U	S	T	S	■	E	T	N	A
■	■	S	O	L	■	■	S	U	N	■	■	■
S	H	O	R	T	Y	■	W	R	E	S	T	S
L	E	V	I	■	A	G	O	■	R	E	S	T
O	M	E	N	■	N	O	R	■	G	R	A	Y
B	O	R	G	■	K	O	D	■	Y	A	R	E

Yesterday's answer 2-1

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12					■	13			■	14		
15					■	16			17			
■	■	18			19			■	20			
21	22		■	23			■	24				
25			26	■	27		28			■	■	■
29				30		■	31			32	33	34
■	■	■	35			36		■	37			
38	39	40			■	41		42	■	43		
44				■	45				46		■	■
47				48			■	49			50	51
52			■	53				54				
55			■	56				57				

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lola Forsberg, 9; Lee Thompson Young, 24; Big Boi, 33; Lisa Marie Presley, 40

Happy Birthday: look forward this year and wager the pros and cons of the changes you are contemplating. If you hold back and don't follow your dreams and desires, you will feel dissatisfied. However, forging ahead without proper guidance and a good solid plan will lead to disappointment. As long as you are calculating and resourceful, everything will turn out well. Your numbers are 10, 22, 24, 37, 39, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't count on your usual resources. Use your imagination and come up with unique solutions. Surprise everyone with your ingenuity and you will positively influence your future. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Put a couple of questions out there and you will get good answers. Avoid being vulnerable and open to someone's taking advantage of you. Boredom will be the enemy, so keep busy and follow through with your findings. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Pull out all the stops and go for gold. You have the stamina, courage and the agility of mind and body to take on any challenge and win. You will be competitive, eager and ready to make a difference and to push for advancement. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Try doing things differently and you will arouse interest in people who see you as a routine-type person. A new lifestyle or learning something to alter the way you run your life will make a positive difference. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take whatever you can get and move on. There is no point mincing words or listening to someone ramble on. Assess your situation. Once you put things behind you, you will be free to make some positive changes. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Stop doing so much for others and do more for yourself. That's the only way you will gain respect and get what you want. You are in the driver's seat. You don't have to get angry, just take action. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Your next destination should be somewhere exciting. Whether it is a place of entertainment, networking or an exotic vacation, forget about your troubles and do something that will enhance your well-being. Have fun and don't look back. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Stay out of trouble by doing something nice. Add to your home entertainment center or purchase something that makes chores easier. Spend some down-time with the one you love. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll be emotional and this can lead to overreacting or exaggeration. Look at the big picture and challenge yourself to something new. Getting away from whatever situation is causing you grief will be your best bet for the time being. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Do things differently and you will not only catch everyone off-guard but will make a lasting impression. It's high time you spiced things up. Take action, think outside the box and take everyone by storm. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Give everything you do your all and you will be successful. Your ability to be aggressive and stick to your game plan will be too much for any competition. Get involved in something you believe in and you will make a lasting contribution. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Truth, precision and doing what you say will be what counts. You have to be clear about what you are trying to do in order to capture the attention of anyone who may be able to help you. Don't exaggerate or make promises that, in the end, will cause you problems. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are bold and brave. You know what you want and are determined to get it. You are inventive, active and always ahead of the crowd. You are powerful, willful and strive for success.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2		3			1			7
		9	5		2	4		3
6		8				5		
				3				
		5				2		8
3		4	7		8	6		
7			6			9		2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	1	7	9	5	3	8	2	4
3	8	9	2	1	4	5	7	6
5	2	4	7	8	6	3	1	9
8	3	6	1	4	7	2	9	5
9	4	1	5	6	2	7	8	3
7	5	2	3	9	8	4	6	1
1	9	3	8	2	5	6	4	7
4	7	8	6	3	1	9	5	2
2	6	5	4	7	9	1	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/31

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT **Solution: 8 letters**

E	F	Y	T	E	F	R	H	K	C	O	T	S	T	E
C	T	R	O	F	M	O	C	H	(E)	(A)	(S)	(E)	S	L
S	I	A	A	A	B	I	A	A	D	M	G	H	E	Y
P	S	T	R	B	L	N	T	V	P	D	C	M	R	T
A	S	E	Y	E	G	E	I	E	U	I	O	I	H	S
S	E	N	N	E	N	S	I	B	R	D	T	G	E	E
T	R	O	S	T	O	E	E	S	S	A	I	A	A	F
I	U	M	E	R	I	S	G	I	U	S	P	S	L	I
M	T	I	Y	N	T	F	W	E	E	R	S	S	T	L
E	U	L	C	A	A	E	R	R	R	E	E	O	H	Y
Q	F	O	T	K	C	S	O	E	T	A	D	C	L	E
D	M	E	W	I	A	F	R	P	E	N	S	I	O	N
E	T	S	O	C	V	E	V	A	S	D	D	A	A	O
A	I	H	R	E	Y	L	R	A	E	E	O	L	N	M
L	C	S	K	S	K	N	A	B	A	Y	E	M	O	H

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Advisory, Asset, Banks, Break, Budget, Capital, Changes, Choice, City, Comfort, Cost, Date, Deal, Early, Ease, Estate, Fitness, Foresight, Freedom, Future, Health, Hobby, Home, Idea, Income, Leisure, Lifestyle, Loan, Monetary, Money, Pastime, Pension, Quiet, Regenerate, Rest, Rich, Save, Senior, Social, Spare Time, Staff, Stock, Trip, Vacation, Wisdom, Work, Years

Yesterday's Answer: Wineries

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. **Sorry,** no online orders for this special offer.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

As added service to our valued customers, you may now submit all your JVA placements for announcement/publication in *Saipan Tribune's* print and online edition and KZMI/KCNM at the same time. No more worries of having to go to two different locations every time you need to place job vacancy announcements. Special rates are available for JVA customers under this arrangement.

Print*	
• 1st position	$10
• 2nd position	$3
• Succeeding positions	$1

Combo (Print and Online)*	
• 1st position	$13
• 2nd position	$4
• Succeeding positions	$2

Radio (KCNM/KZMI)	
• Up to 6 positions	$5
• More than 6 positions	$10

LOWER RATES! Effective Feb. 3, 2007

*These rates apply to all vacancy announcements that include corresponding benefits and which announcements are all under the same company name.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.
- KCNM/KZMI: All ads placed on Friday (9am to 5pm) will be for Monday's radio announcement.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

FOR RENT RESIDENTIAL

House for lease, 53+ years. Newly renovated 2BR/1BA in Fina Sisu near NMC. Asking $115K. Contact Scott or Melinda Crockett, 234-5260 or 788-1834. Call for appointment.

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

FOR SALE COMMERCIAL

Bud's Bar is now for sale $18K-$20K. Everything goes. Serious buyers only. Contact Les @ 233-1113, 898-4866

$200 REWARD FOR LOST WALLET

Brown wallet lost within the vicinity of Tony Roma's, Garapan on January 25, 2008 around 5 a.m. Important documents like entry permit (#156077) and drivers license (#12222003) needed to be returned to owner. Reward of $200 will be given. No questions asked.

If found or any information, please call 285-4469.

SMALL ENGINE REPAIR
LAUNDRY REPAIR
- Lawn Mower
- Generator Repair
- Boat Engine
- Bush Cutter Repair
- Motor Bike
- Rewinding

233-5641 Open 7 Day a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

ACCOUNTANT (1)

Contact Judy Wei at Tel.# 234-3203 Eucon International School

Minimum of 5 years experience in general accounting, financial statement preparation and government reporting. Medical insurance and workers compensation are provided.

Commercial Space & Room for Rent

- 4000 sq.ft. commercial space, good for warehouse (previously rented to Mingli Wholesale), auto-shop, day-care, office, etc. Located in Chalan Laulau between Middle Rd. & Beach Rd. Back of Triple J Auto.
- Room from $80-$140/mo. behind Triple J Auto on Beach Rd. near to XO Market & H-Mart.

Call Ivan @ 235-0479, 285-9966, 9:00am - 6:00pm

Female-
Sales Associate
Contact:
Doris 483-7002

***NEW* Rattan Furniture**
FOR SALE
Expensive material
Call 235-4791, 433-9616, 285-7446

NURSING ASSISTANTS FOR NORTH CAROLINA

New Position Opening: Sign up for immediate travel

Requirement: High School education; US citizenship or residency; certification or experience a plus. Training will be given to those who qualify.

Offer: Full time employment; certification training provided, airfare to North Carolina, first month housing plus other benefits.

To apply contact:

World Health Resources, Inc.
www.whrgroup.com;
(201) 662-8907, (800) 742-2446
Or fax resume to (201) 662-9644. • Email: info@whrgroup.com.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

bonbon π

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Find today's solution in this section

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 GENERAL MANAGER (F 13273)
Salary:$1,000.00/monthly. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Wondersea Saipan Inc. @233-7011.

1 WAITRESS/WAITER (F 13274)
Salary:$3.40-$3.55/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; workers compensation & medical expense. Contact: M. Samwa Planning Ltd. @235-7102.

1 BEAUTICIAN (F 13275)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; transportation employee provided; medical & workers compensation employer provided. Contact: Esquire Enterprises, Inc. @234-6564.

1 HOUSEWORKER (LIVE-IN) (F 13276)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing deduction; $100.00/food deduction & medical provided. Contact: Yiyao Zhang @235-8163.

1 SUBA DIVING INSTRUCTOR (F 13277)
Salary:$1,000.00/monthly. Benefits: $200.00/housing allowance; medical & workmens compensation. Contact: Big Dog Corporation dba Big Dog Dive Station Saipan @235-7706.

1 TEACHER (DAYCARE) (F 13278)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen compensation. Contact: Yeldez T. Javier dba Loving Hands Daycare @235-0611.

1 HOUSEWORKER (F 13279)
Salary:$3.55/hour. ER provided housing; ER provided food; medical & worksman compensation. Contact: Yeldez T. Javier dba Loving Hands Daycare @235-0611.

1 MAINTENANCE (F 13280)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by 0employer. Contact: Monica S. Manalo dba Monia's Music Studio @288-6683.

1 SALES REPRESENATIVE (F 13281)
Salary:$800.00/monthly. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workman's compensation. Contact: Bernadita R. Cabrera dba Northshore Marine Sports @483-9991.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (F 13282)
Salary:$750.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employers. Contact: Bridge Capital, LLC. @322-2222.

2 HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC (F 13283)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation included. Contact: Cornelo D Alomia dba Triple R Pacific Motor Shop @234-3387.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (F 13284)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employee provided housing; employee provided food; workmen's compensation & medical provided. Contact: ISA Enterprises Inc. @285-0628.

1 COMMERCIAL CLAENER (F 13285)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employee provided housing; employee provided food; workmen's compensation & medical provided. Contact: ISA Enterprises Inc. @285-0628.

1 HOUSEWORKER (F 13286)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/charge deduct monthly housing; $100.00/deduct food monthly; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Mr. & Mrs. Edel G. Cudia @235-0358.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (F 13287)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; self provide food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Unicorn Corporation @322-3364.

WHATZIT Solution:
Sweetie pie

1 HOUSEWORKER (F 13288)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing provided (Live-in); food provided; workers compensation & medical. Contact: Ulpiano C. and Estrella Baysa @235-0948.

1 SUPERVISOR OF COMMUNICATIONS (F 13289)
Salary:$3.55-$7.00/hour. Benefits: Housing not provided; food not provided; medical & workman's compensation. Contact: Nick S. Ramon dba Western Pacific Telecommunication Service Company @234-6030.

1 COMPTROLLER (F 13290)
Salary:$12.00/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food & Catering dba Auntie Mag's Catering @288-4799.

1 OFFICE CLERK (F 13291)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Javili General Partnership @235-4928.

1 BLDG. MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (F 13292)
Salary:$3.55-$3.75/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: AA Enterprises, Inc. @322-4447.

1 CASHIER (F 13293)
Salary:$3.55-$3.75/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: AA Enterprises, Inc. @322-4447.

1 H.E. OPERATOR (F 13294)
Salary:$3.55-$3.75/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical expenses & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: AA Enterprises, Inc. @322-4447.

1 WAITRESS/WAITER (F 13295)
Salary:$3.55-$3.70/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: Nippon General Trading Corp. @233-8223.

1 ACCOUNTANT (F 13296)
Salary:$3.55-$6.70/hour. Benefits: $150.00/housing allowance; workmen's compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Anthony R. Stearns, MD dba Marianas Medical Center @2341-3926.

1 X-RAY/ULTRASOUND TECH (F 13297)
Salary:$3.55-$7.00/hour. Benefits: $150.00/housing allowance; workmen's compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Anthony R. Stearns, MD dba Marianas Medical Center @2341-3926.

1 GROUNDSKEEPER (F 13298)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food & medical provided. Contact: Rosa C. Sorensen @286-5242

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 WAREHOUSE WORKER
(F 13299)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Luen Fung Ent., (Saipan), Inc. @234-7243.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER
(F 13300)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Luen Fung Ent., (Saipan), Inc. @234-7243.

1 ELECTRICIAN (F 13301)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Luen Fung Ent., (Saipan), Inc. @234-7243.

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1 LOGISTICS MANAGER
(F 13302)
Salary:$1,500.00-$1,700.00/monthly. Benefits: Work compensation & medical insurance. Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc. @234-6616/7/8.

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1 (GENERAL) MAINTENANCE WORKER MUNICIPAL (F 13303)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: Law Offices of Ramon K. Quichocho LLC. @234-8946.

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1 CUTTER (F 13304)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman compensation provided. Contact: Uno Moda Corp. @234-1861/2.

7 GARMENT INSPECTOR
(F 13305)
Salary:$3.55-$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman compensation provided. Contact: Uno Moda Corp. @234-1861/2.

2 PRESSER (F 13306)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman compensation provided. Contact: Uno Moda Corp. @234-1861/2.

1 ACCOUNTANT MANAGER
(F 13307)
Salary:$10.48/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman compensation provided. Contact: Uno Moda Corp. @234-1861/2.

35 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR (F 13308)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workman compensation provided. Contact: Uno Moda Corp. @234-1861/2.

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1 WELL DRILLER (F 13309)
Salary:$4.25/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Alexander Incorporated dba Alexander Drilling @234-5117.

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1 DRESSMAKER (F 13310)
Salary:$3.55-$4.25/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

1 MAINTENANCE, MECHANIC (F 13311)
Salary:$3.55-$4.25/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

1 COMPUTER PROGRAMMER (F 13312)
Salary:$3.55-$4.25/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-CHC-032

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 15, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"LABORATORY SERVICES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT **9:00 A.M., FEBRUARY 6, 2008** AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-CHC-033

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 15, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"HOSPITAL FOOD AND CAFETERIA SERVICES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT **10:00 A.M., FEBRUARY 06, 2008** AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP08-DCCA/HPO-027

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 13, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"PREPARATION OF MARITIME CONTEXT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP08-DCCA/HPO-028

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 13, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"TO CONDUCT UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY REMOTE SENSING SURVEY OF THE TANAPAG LAGOON, SAIPAN, CNMI FOR THE DCCA-HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-CHC-034

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 15, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"PRIVATIZATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER–HEMODIALYSIS UNIT"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT **11:00 A.M., FEBRUARY 06, 2008** AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP08-DCCA/HPO-029

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 13, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"TO CONDUCT ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY AND NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FOR JAPANESE DEFENSIVE COMPLEX ON THE ISLAND OF ROTA, CNMI FOR THE DCCA-HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP08-DCCA/HPO-030

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 13, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"TO DEMONSTRATE THE USE AND INTERPRETATION OF GROUND PENETRATING RADAR FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS FOR THE DCCA-HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP08-DCCA/HPO-031

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 13, 2008 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"CREATION OF ELECTRONIC DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE DCCA-HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

WORLD RESORT
SAIPAN

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: February 01, 2008
Closing: February 29, 2008
Position: Aircon-Technician
Salary: Based on Qualifications/Plus other benefits.

Nature of Work: Mounts compressor and condenser units on platform or floor, using handtools, following blueprints or engineering specifications. Fabricates, assembles, and installs ductwork and chassis parts, using portable metalworking tools and welding equipment Installs evaporator unit in chassis or in air duct system, using handtools. Cuts and bends tubing to correct length and shape, using cutting and bending equipment and tools. Cuts and threads pipe, using machine-threading or hand-threading equipment. Joins tubing or pipe to various refrigerating units by means of sleeves, couplings, or unions, and solders joints, using torch, forming complete circuit for refrigerant. Installs expansion and discharge valves in circuit. Connects motors, compressors, temperature controls, humidity controls, and circulating-ventilation fans to control panels and connects control panels to power source. Installs air and water filters in completed installation. Injects small amount of refrigerant into compressor to test systems, and adds Freon gas to build up prescribed operating pressure. Observes pressure and vacuum gauges and adjusts controls to ensure efficient operation. Tests joints and connections for gas leaks, using gauges or soap-and-water solution. Wraps pipes in insulation batting and secures them in place with cement or wire bands. Replaces defective breaker controls, thermostats, switches, fuses, and electrical wiring to repair installed units, using electrician's handtools and test equipment. May install, repair, and service air-conditioners, ranging from fifteen to twenty tons cooling capacity.

Education & Work Experience: Must be high school graduate; plus 2-3years experience as an Aircon-Technician.

Interested individuals may pick up an application from the Saipan Word Resort Security Office. All application packages must be received at Saipan World Resort no later then 5:00 p.m., Friday, February 29, 2008. Late application packages will not be accepted.

Opening Date: February 01, 2008
Closing: February 29, 2008
Position: Electrician
Salary: Based on Qualifications/Plus other benefits.

Nature of Work: technician Applies electrical theory and related knowledge to test and modify developmental or operational electrical machinery and electrical control equipment and circuitry in industrial or commercial plants and laboratories: Assembles and tests experimental motor-control devices, switch panels, transformers, generator windings, solenoids, and other electrical equipment and components according to engineering data and knowledge of electrical principles. Modifies electrical prototypes to correct functional deviations under direction of ELECTRICAL ENGINEER Diagnoses cause of electrical or mechanical malfunction or failure of operational equipment and performs preventative and corrective maintenance. Develops wiring diagrams, layout drawings, and engineering specifications for system or equipment modifications or expansion, and directs personnel performing routine installation and maintenance duties. Plans, directs, and records periodic electrical testing, and recommends or initiates modification or replacement of equipment which fails to meet acceptable operating standards.

Education & Work Experience: Must be high school graduate; plus 2-3years experience as a Electrician.

Interested individuals may pick up an application from the Saipan Word Resort Security Office. All application packages must be received at Saipan World Resort no later then 5:00 p.m., Friday, February 29, 2008. Late application packages will not be accepted.

Opening Date: January 31, 2008
Closing: February 29, 2008
Position: Cake Maker
Salary: Based on Qualifications/Plus other benefits.

Nature of Work: Prepares and bakes cakes, cookies, pies, puddings, or desserts, according to recipe: Measures ingredients, using measuring cups and spoons. Mixes ingredients to form dough or batter, using electric mixer or beats and stirs ingredients by hand. Shapes dough for cookies, pies, and fancy pastries, using pie dough roller and cookie cutters or by hand. Places shaped dough portions in greased or floured pans and inserts them in oven, using long-handled paddle (peel). Adjusts drafts or thermostatic controls to regulate oven temperatures. Prepares and cooks ingredients for pie fillings, puddings, custards, or other desserts. Pours filling into pie shells and tops filling with meringue or cream. Mixes ingredients to make icings. Decorates cakes and pastries Blends colors for icings and for shaped sugar ornaments and statuaries. May specialize in preparing one or more types of pastry or dessert when employed in large establishment.

Education & Work Experience: Must be high school graduate; plus 2-3years experience as a Cake Maker.

Interested individuals may pick up an application from the Saipan Word Resort Security Office. All application packages must be received at Saipan World Resort no later then 5:00 p.m., Friday, February 29, 2008. Late application packages will not be accepted.

Interested applicants must submit their application, resume, educational credentials and police clearance addressed to the following:

Miriam K. Seman, Manager, Human Resources • Phone: (670) 234-5900 Ext: 274

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 PAINT MIXER (F 13313)
Salary:$3.55-$4.25/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: YCO Corp. dba YCO TrueValue Hardware/Do It Best Hardware/Liberty Dept. Store/YCO Construction/Appliance Outlets/ Liberty Dept. Store/Naked Fish Bar & Grill/Servistar Motorsports @ 233-3112/3.

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1 WAITER/WAITRESS (F 13314)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; free food while on duty; employer to provide medical insurance & workmans compensation. Contact: Kingfisher Corporation dba Kingfisher Golflinks @322-1100.

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1 ESTIMATOR, JEWELRY (F 13315)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: Alexander Incorporated dba Fashcash Pawnshop @234-5117.

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1 KITCHEN HELPER (F 13316)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workman compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Auntie Mag's Food & Catering dba Auntie Mag's Food & Catering @288-4799.

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12 COMMERCIAL (SERVICES) CLEANERS (F 13317)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmen compensation & medical provided. Contact: Sablan Topline Company, LLC. @235-5206.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (F 13318)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/deduct housing; $100.00/ deduct food & medical. Contact: John S. Blanco @234-6138.

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1 GENERAL MANAGER (13319)
Salary:$650.00-$2,000.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation provided. Contact: Mega Power Corporation dba Atoll Divers & Tours Services. @483-6284.

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1 AUTO BODY REPAIRER (F 13320)
Salary:$4.50/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation insurance & medical. Contact: Motion Automotive Repair CTR. @235-3481.

1 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (F 13321)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation insurance. Contact: Motion Automotive Repair CTR. @235-3481.

1 AUTO ELECTRICIAN (F 13322)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation insurance. Contact: Motion Automotive Repair CTR. @235-3481.

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1 TOUR COORDINATOR (F 13323)
Salary:$3.55-$4.05/hour. Benefits: $10.00-$50.00/gas allowance monthly; $50.00-$350.00/housing allowance monthly; workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: HIS Saipan Inc. @234-7053.

1 CONTROLLER (F 13324)
Salary:$700.00-$1,982.00/monthly. Benefits: $10.00-$50.00/gas allowance monthly; $50.00-$350.00/ housing allowance monthly; workers compensation & medical expenses company provided. Contact: HIS Saipan Inc. @234-7053.

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1 STEWARD (F 13325)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: $30.00/housing monthly; free food; workers compensation & medical coverage. Contact: World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort @234-5900.

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1 CARGO HANDLER (F 13326)
Salary:$3.55-$4.10/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @288-0360 to 0362.

1 MAINT. MECH. (F 13327)
Salary:$3.55-$4.95/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @288-0360 to 0362.

1 MANAGER, PASSENGER SERVICE (F 13328)
Salary:$1,972.00-$2,200.00/ monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @288-0360 to 0362.

1 ACCOUNTANT (MANAGER) (F 13329)
Salary:$1,972.00-$2,169.20/ monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @288-0360 to 0362.

1 (CABIN SERVICE AGENT) CLEANER II (F 13330)
Salary:$3.55-$4.45/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; workmen's compensation provided & medical. Contact: Pacific Oriental Inc. @288-0360 to 0362.

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1 MANAGER, ACCOUNTING (F 13331)
Salary:$1,900.00-$2,337.50/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Century Insurance Co., Ltd. @234-0609.

1 ACCOUNTANT (F 13332)
Salary:$3.55-$6.35/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Century Insurance Co., Ltd. @234-0609.

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1 MANAGER, ACCOUNTING I (F 13333)
Salary:$1,200.00-$2,585.00/ monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Century Finance Co., Ltd. @236-2740/236-2741.

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1 ACCOUNTANT (F 13334)
Salary:$3.55-$8.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

1 CLERK, DOCUMENTATION BILL (F 13335)
Salary:$3.55-$4.40/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

1 MANAGER (F 13336)
Salary:$1,200.00-$2,310.00/monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

1 MANAGER, GENERAL (F 13337)
Salary:$1,200.00-$3,080.00/ monthly. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

1 ACCOUNTANT (F 13338)
Salary:$3.55-$5.85/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

1 SUPERVISOR, UNLOADING/ LOADING (F 13339)
Salary:$3.55-$4.70/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Consol. Trans. Serv. Inc. @322-1690 (L. Base)/234-2808 (Air).

1 WAITRESS/WAITER (F 13340)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; food not provided; medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Segundo G. Posadas dba Segundo's Delicious BBQ/Catering Services @233-1246.

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1 WAITRESS/WAITER (F 13341)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing; 2duty meals; shared cost medical insurance; vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: WDI Saipan, Inc. dba Tony Roma's/Capricciosa @322-7516.

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1 SUPERVISOR (PARTS) (F 13342)
Salary:$6.65-$6.90/hour. Benefits: Free housing if no A/C; medical insurance; vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: Triple J Saipan, Inc. @234-1795.

1 COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYST (F 13343)
Salary:$461.54/bi-weekly. Benefits: Free housing if no A/C; medical insurance; vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: Triple J Saipan, Inc. @234-1795.

1 MAINTENANCE (BUILDING) REPAIRER (F 13344)
Salary:$4.65-$4.90/hour. Benefits: Free housing if no A/C; medical insurance; vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: Triple J Saipan, Inc. @234-1795.

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1 ELECTRICAL ENGR-DESIGN (F 13345)
Salary:$2,400.00/monthly. Benefits: $300.00/housing; $200.00/food; staywell insurance; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: EMC2 Electrical, Inc. dba EMCE @233-3081.

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1 ELECTRONIC TECH. (F 13346)
Salary:$3.75/hour. Benefits: Medical & worksman compensation will be provided. Contact: Choice Radio Inc. dba I-Connect @235-0168.

1 SALES MANAGER (F 13347)
Salary:$4.12/hour. Benefits: Medical & worksman compensation will be provided. Contact: Choice Radio Inc. dba I-Connect @235-0168.

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1 ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN (MANAGER) (F 13348)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Joseph J.A. Pablo dba 3 G's Service @235-7069.

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1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (F 13349)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self arranged food; medical & workmen's compensation provided by employer. Contact: Cheng Xiang Corporation @287-3067.

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SECOND AMENDED INVITATION TO BID
No. CPA-SA-2007-001
SALE OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL LUMBER:

	ITEMS	QUANTITY	MINIMUM BID
1.	4"x 6" x 18'	678 pieces	$30.00 each
2.	4"x 12" x 18'	302 pieces	$50.00 each

Interested individuals or firms may submit bids for the purchasing of the above listed lumber to the Acting Executive Director, Mr. Stanley C. Torres, at the CPA Administration Office, Second Floor of the Arrival Building at the Saipan International Airport, during regular working hours.

Bidders are able to inspect the items for bid, Mondays through Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., except legal holidays. For inspection arrangements, please contact Mr. Joe Santos at 664-3538.

Bids will be accepted on a "first come, first serve" basis and the listed prices are final. There will be no negotiations for price reductions. For more information, please call (670) 664-3500.

/s/ STANLEY C. TORRES
Acting Executive Director

Date: January 17, 2008

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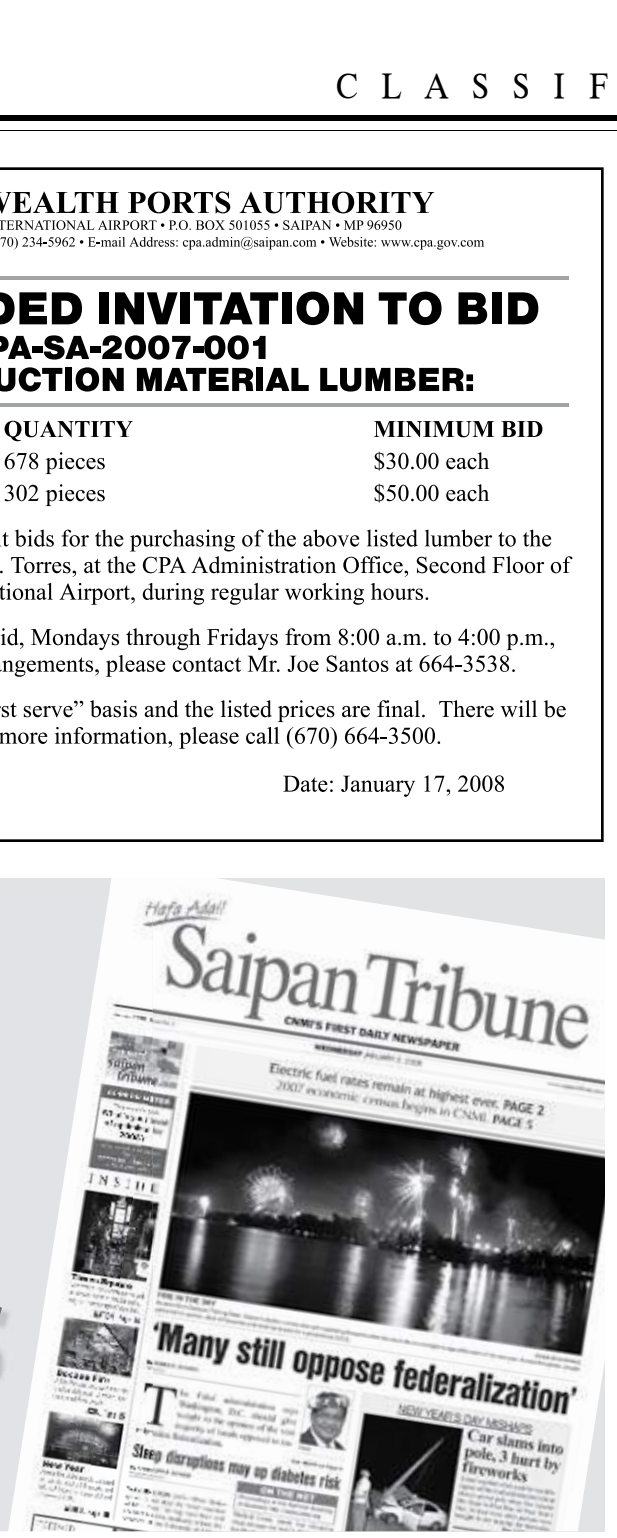
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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 08-009

The Public School System and the CNMI State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery and installation of **School and Office Furniture for Kagman High School, Saipan**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-009" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **February 11, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-009, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via the following fax number: (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, technical questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp**. Questions shall be submitted no later than ten (10) business days prior to the deadline to submit bids.

General inquiries may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone numbers 237-3062 or 3035.

Bidders are required to submit with their bid, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 08-016

The CNMI Public School System and the CNMI State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, and installation of **Desktop Computers, Laptops, and Accessories for the following schools and program:**

1. **Head Start**
2. **Marianas High School**
3. **William S. Reyes Elementary School**

Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be placed in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-016" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than March 3, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in separate envelope marked "IFB 08-016, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility determination" (1-original and 1-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, technical questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp.** Questions shall be submitted no later than ten (10) calendar days prior to the submission deadline.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

General inquiries to this announcement may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone numbers 237-3062 / 3035.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting P & S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB# 08-018

The Public School System (PSS) and the CNMI State Board of Education are soliciting for competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, and installation of **Desktop & Laptop Computer Systems and Accessories for Saipan Community School (SCS)** on the island of Saipan.

Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All Bid Proposals must be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB # 08-018" and submitted one (1) original with four (4) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than February 18, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB# 08-018, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility determination" (1-original with 4-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl F. dela Cruz, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer via fax # (670) 664-3791 Alternatively, technical questions mail be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp**. Questions shall be submitted no later than ten (10) calendar days prior to the submission deadline.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

General inquiries to this announcement may be directed to the PSS Acting, Procurement and Supply Office at telephone number 237-3077 or 3062 or 3035.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. dela Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

PROMOTIONAL/TRANSFER OPPORTUNITY (PSS EMPLOYEES ONLY) EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School Personnel System shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS-070-2007**
Position Title: **SCHOOL PRINCIPAL HII**
Pay Level/Step: UNGRADED
Opening Date: **JANUARY 15, 2008**
Location: PSS **– SAIPAN HIGH SCHOOLS**
Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Per Annum Salary: **$50,000.00-$60,000.00**
Closing Date: **FEBRUARY 6, 2008**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays
Minimum Requirements:
Masters Degree with a Major in Educational Administration or related field.
Minimum of 6 years experience; 3 years of which must be teaching experience and other 3 years of successful experience as a school administrator or related leadership management fields. Possess a valid CNMI Administrators Certificate. Pass PRAXIS I (PPST) & PRAXIS II Content Knowledge Test.

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

Announcement No: **PSS-071-2007**
Position Title: **SCHOOL VICE-PRINCIPAL HI**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED**
Opening Date: **JANUARY 15, 2008**
Location: PSS **- SAIPAN HIGH SCHOOLS**
Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Per Annum Salary: **$40,00.00-$50,000.00**
Closing Date: **FEBRUARY 6, 2008**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays
Minimum Requirements:
School Vice Principal I - Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Education or related area plus three (3) years experience in teaching or education administration and must hold a valid administrator certification. Pass PRAXIS I (PPST) & PRAXIS II Content Knowledge Test.

School Vice Principal II - Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Master's Degree in Education or related area plus three (3) years experience in teaching or education administration and must hold a valid administrator certification. Pass PRAXIS I (PPST) & PRAXIS II Content Knowledge Test.

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3064, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid IFB 08-013

The CNMI Public School System and the CNMI State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, and installation of **Desktop Computers, Notebook Computers, and Projectors for Garapan Elementary School, Saipan**.

Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be placed in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-013" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than February 8, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in separate envelope marked "IFB 08-013, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility determination" (1-original and 1-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, technical questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp**. Questions shall be submitted no later than ten (10) calendar days prior to the submission deadline.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

General inquiries to this announcement may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone numbers 237-3062 / 3035.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid IFB 08-022

The Public School System (PSS) and the CNMI State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the P**urchase and Delivery of One (1) Pick-Up Truck for Hopwood Junior High School.**

Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-022" containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than March 3, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-022, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (1-original and 1-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, technical questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp**. Technical questions, in order to ensure consideration, should be submitted no later than ten (10) business days prior to the deadline for submission of bids.

General inquiries may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone numbers 237-3068 / 3035.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting P & S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid IFB 08-015

The CNMI Public School System and the CNMI State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, and installation of **Desktop Computers and Accessories for Tinian Jr./Sr. High School.**

Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be placed in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-015" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than February 14, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-015, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility determination" (1-original and 1-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, technical questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp**. Questions shall be submitted no later than ten (10) calendar days prior to the submission deadline.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

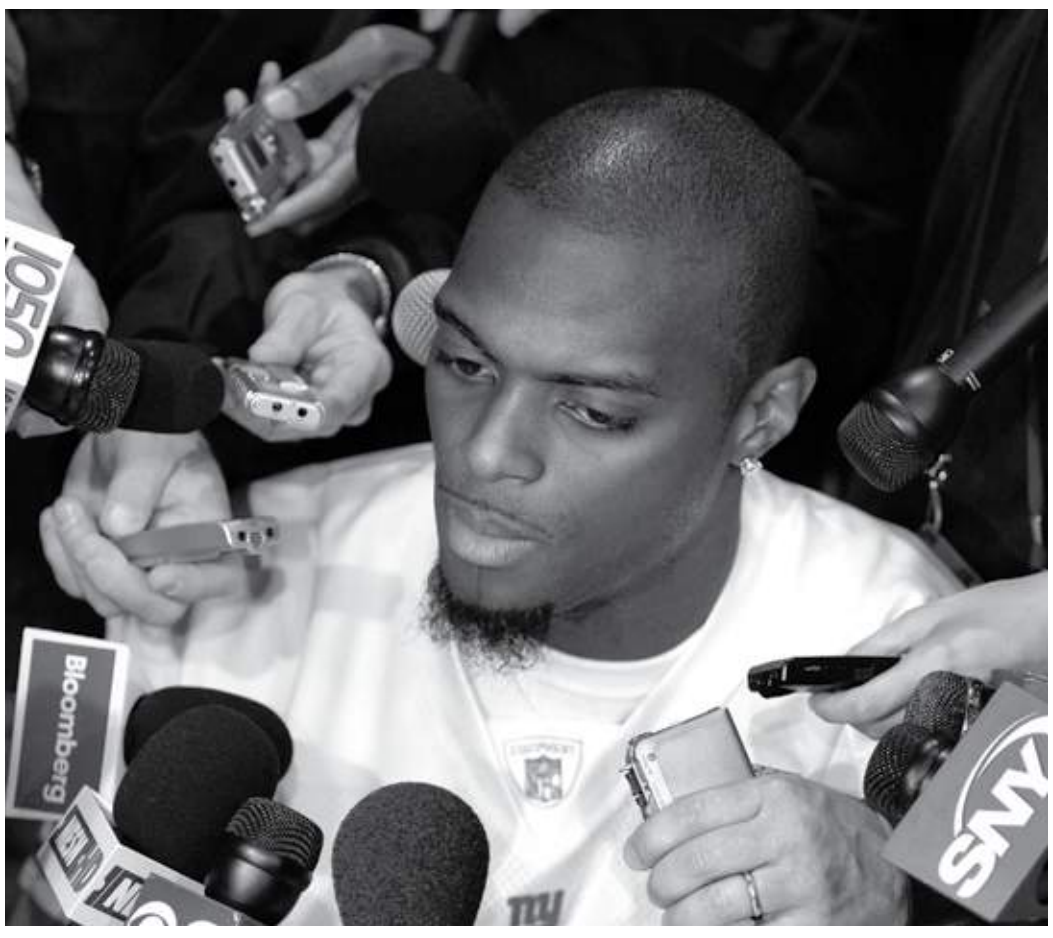
All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

General inquiries to this announcement may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone numbers 237-3062 / 3035.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. Dela Cruz, M.B.A.
Acting P & S Officer

Brady surprised by Burress' prediction



AP

New York Giants wide receiver Plaxico Burress answers questions for the media availability session Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008 in Chandler, Ariz.

PHOENIX (AP)—23-17.

Just 17 points for the potent Patriots.

A certain MVP quarterback thinks that's a Super-sized diss.

Tom Brady scoffed when told Wednesday that New York Giants receiver Plaxico Burress guaranteed New York will beat Brady's undefeated New England team in Sunday's Super Bowl.

"We're only going to score 17 points?" Brady said before chuckling about it. "OK. Is Plax playing defense? I wish he had said 45-42 and gave us a little credit for scoring more points."

Considering the Patriots set an NFL record by scoring 589 points, Brady's 50 touchdown passes were the most ever for one season, and Randy Moss broke Jerry Rice's mark with 23 TD catches, Burress might have been a bit chintzy.

The last time the Patriots played the Giants, in the season finale, New England rallied from 12 points down in the third quarter to win 38-35. The Patriots have not scored fewer than 20 points in their 18 victories, and the last time they put up only 17 was Dec. 10, 2006 - a 21-0 loss at Miami in their last regular-season defeat.

Even if the Giants' defense performs at its peak, it's still doubtful New England will score only 17 points.

"I know they have confidence. They should have confidence," Brady said. "They are the NFC champions.

"I learned a lesson early in my career: No matter what you say during the week - and God knows we say a lot this week - we're going to be focused on going out and winning this game. We're confident, but I don't think we share our thoughts with everybody."

Burress did. And when he showed up 33 minutes late for the Giants' media session Wednesday morning, there was speculation the wide receiver was trying to avoid the spotlight.

Turns out Burress was spending time with his 1-year-old son and family at breakfast, claiming he was unaware so many people wanted to interrogate him about his prediction.

Nor was he aware, he said, that a hefty fine comes with missing a Super Bowl week media session.

"I don't understand what the fuss is about," Burress said, surrounded by at least as many TV cameras, microphones and notepads as Brady was two hours earlier. "Nobody wants to lose.

"All this is entertainment," added Burress, who was held out of practice Wednesday because of an ankle injury that has plagued him all season. "It's sports, and sports are entertainment. So 23-17 is the prediction I made, but the game still has to be played."

Told about Brady's reaction to that score, Burress said he wasn't disrespecting anyone.

"I'm not taking anything away from what those guys accomplished," he said. "They set all the records you could possibly imagine. They have a great quarterback, the MVP, who threw for a record (50) touchdowns. Randy set a TD record for catches. They had two receivers with over 100 catches.

"The numbers don't lie about what they have done."

Nor do the numbers 23-17 lie about what Burress thinks.

"Hey, look how much fun everybody is having with it," he said. "It makes national, international headlines. But the game still has to be played."

Giants coach Tom Coughlin couldn't have been pleased with Burress, but declined to say very much about him.

"I will speak with Plaxico in a private way, and that's where it will remain," he said.

New England played two games this season that were preceded by an opposing player's prediction. Pittsburgh's Anthony Smith guaranteed a win in Week 13 at Foxborough; the Patriots routed the Steelers 34-13. And after Brady threw an early TD pass over Smith, he verbally confronted the Steelers safety.

Days before the AFC title game, San Diego defensive end Igor Olshansky said the Chargers were unstoppable. New England stopped them, 21-12.

"We don't make predictions. We just let our play do the talking," Brady said matter-of-factly.

"Plaxico is a hell of a player. If he feels that way, I think that's great. I'd hate for him to think he's going to lose this game. It's obvious nobody does."

Burress was entitled to his opinion, Moss said, "but the only thing about a prediction is that you have got to make it happen."

"I think the pressure is more on them now, since they've guaranteed this victory. We've prepared very hard for the last week and a half, and we still have got a couple more days to get out there and tone some things up. But making a prediction that you are going to go out there and make it happen are very tough words to back up."

Not that Burress is backing down. He's done his Joe Namath impersonation off the field, and now he has to come through in similar fashion to what Namath and the New York Jets achieved in 1969: the biggest upset in Super Bowl history.

"Well, 23-17 was the first thing that came to my head," Burress said.

Then Burress looked at the numbered placard at the table where he was holding court.

"No. 23," he said. "How do you like that?"

Crennel agrees to 2-year extension

CLEVELAND (AP)—Coach Romeo Crennel has agreed to terms on a two-year contract extension with the Cleveland Browns, his agent said Monday night.

The 60-year-old Crennel, the league's oldest coach, had two years remaining on the five-year deal he signed with the Browns in 2005. His agent, Joe Linta, said the sides have agreed in principle to the extension but that it has not yet been signed.

Crennel began the 2007 season on the hot seat after going just 10-22 in his first two seasons. However, Crennel, who won three Super Bowl rings as New England's defensive coordinator before coming to Cleveland, guided the Browns to a 10-6 mark—their best since 1999—and the club just missed making the AFC playoffs.

The extension is not a surprise. Last month, general manager Phil Savage said the Browns intended to reward Crennel for turning the team around after years of disarray.

"He really deserves an extension," rookie tackle Joe Thomas said. "He did a great job this year and you can see that his plan is kind of taking hold, what his vision was when he first got hired.

"It will be nice for him to finally not feel the heat from everybody."

AP

Kansas State forward Michael Beasley (30) is covered by Kansas center Sasha Kaun during the first half of their college basketball game in Manhattan, Kan., Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008.

Kansas State beats Kansas

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP)—Michael Beasley scored 25 points, Bill Walker had 19 and No. 22 Kansas State ended a 24-year, home-court losing streak against Kansas with an 84-75 victory Wednesday night against the previously unbeaten Jayhawks.

Always double- and sometimes triple-teamed when he touched the ball inside, the 6-foot-10 Beasley was held to only eight points in the first half but scored six in a row in the first few minutes after intermission and No. 2 Kansas never caught up.

Beasley, the nation's leading rebounder and No. 4 scorer, was 4-for-4 from behind the 3-point arc as the Wildcats (15-4, 5-0 Big 12) took over first place in a Big 12 conference they've never even competed in, let alone won.

Kansas (20-1, 5-1), two victories short of matching the best start in its storied basketball history, lost on its state rival's home court for the first time since 1983. The 24-game streak in an opponent's home gym came within one of tying the NCAA Division I record which UCLA set against California from 1961-85.

The capacity crowd of 12,528 in Bramlage Coliseum, where Kansas had been 19-0, sensed the victory with more than 5 minutes to go and security guards, worried about a near-riot, moved near the court.

It didn't keep the floor from being flooded by delirious Wildcats fans, who jumped over the press table and sent reporters, computers and notebooks flying.

Jacob Pullen had 20 points for Kansas State, giving the freshman trio of Beasley-Walker-Pullen a combined 67.

Mario Chalmers had 19 for Kansas. Brandon Rush had 15 and Darrell Arthur 12.

The Jayhawks had beaten Kansas State 35 of their last 36 overall. With Kansas going down, No. 1 Memphis is the only unbeaten team left in Division I.

Arthur, the leading scorer in Kansas' well-balanced offense, drew his fourth foul with 13:33 left and went to the bench, weakening the Jayhawks offensively and defensively. After Sherron Collins hit a 3-pointer 30 seconds later to slice Kansas State's lead to 47-45, the Jayhawks went almost seven minutes without a field goal, missing six straight shots.

Beasley, in the meantime, had become his nearly unstoppable self and Pullen was darting in and out and having his best game of the season.

Walker hit a 3-pointer for a 52-45 lead, his first points since drawing his third foul and going to the bench in the first half after throwing a vicious elbow to the face of Chalmers.

Then Pullen hit a 3-pointer, Beasley rebounded Chalmers' miss and put in a thunderous dunk on the other end off a nifty feed from Pullen that made it 57-45.

Chalmers and Russell Robinson, who had combined to average almost six steals this season and rank 1-2 in the Big 12, figured prominently in a game plan that was supposed to have the Jayhawks' quicker, deeper back court dominate the Wildcat guards and create turnovers.

But Kansas State's guards were more than up to the challenge. Pullen had four assists to go with 10-for-10 from the foul line. Clent Stewart, a senior guard, had 11 points and five rebounds. Together they outscored Chalmers and Robinson 31-25.

Kansas, which averaged only 12 turnovers while winning its first 20 games, had 10 in the first half of the rough-and-tumble 263rd meeting of the Sunflower State rivals and wound up with 16.

Sherron Collins had 12 points for the Jayhawks, who came into the game leading the nation with a scoring margin of 24.9 points.

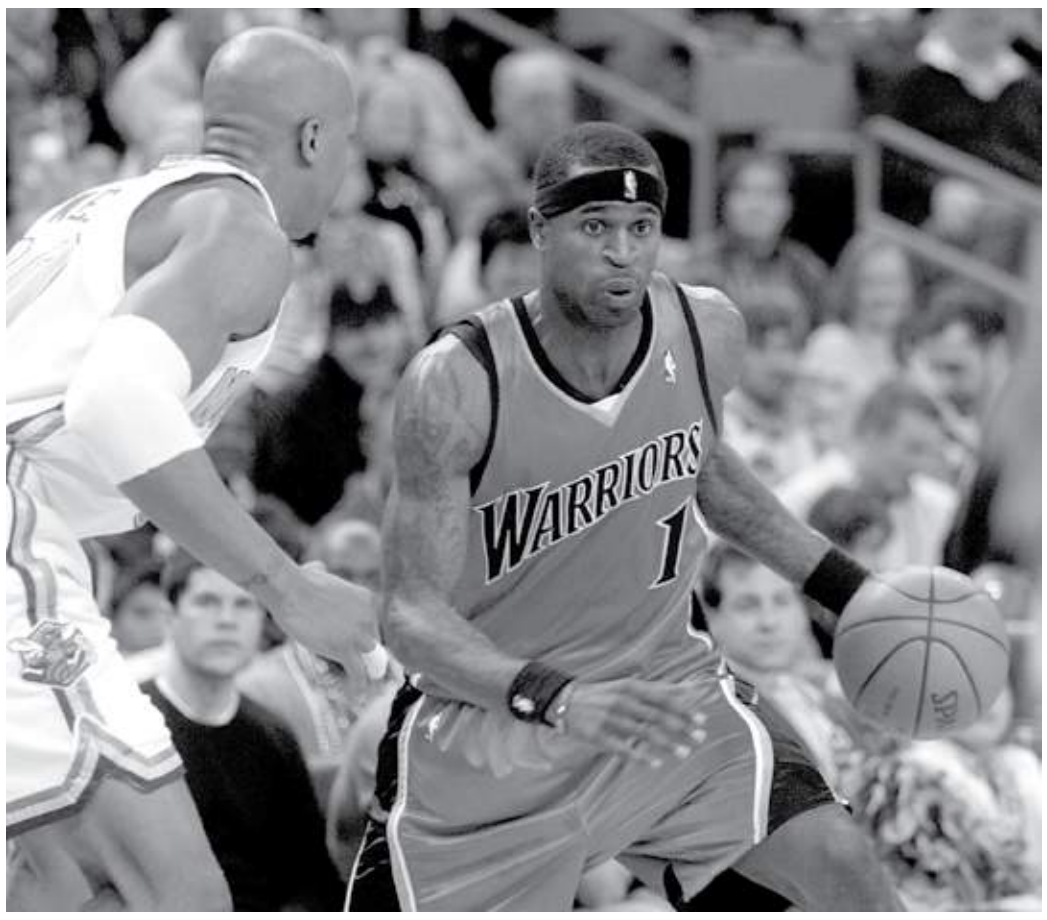
Warriors snap Hornets' 9-game winning streak

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The Golden State Warriors beat New Orleans 116-103 in the NBA on Wednesday to snap the Hornets' nine-game winning streak.

Stephen Jackson scored 26 points for the Warriors, who shot 52 percent and made 13 3-pointers.

The defeat means the Hornets can be overtaken by Dallas atop the Southwest Division when the Mavericks play Boston on Thursday.

New Orleans lost for only the third time in 20 games.



AP

Golden State Warriors forward Stephen Jackson (1) gets around New Orleans Hornets forward David West, left, in the second half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008.

Cavaliers 84, Trail Blazers 83

In Portland, Oregon, LeBron James' reverse layup with less than a second left gave Cleveland victory over Portland and its fifth straight win on the road.

Portland led by as many as 14 points in the second half, but the Cavaliers closed in as time ran down. James, who had 37 points and 14 rebounds, hit three consecutive 3-pointers to tie it 81 with 2:26 left.

The Cavaliers have won 13 of their past 16 games. They last won five straight road games in 1998.

Magic 107, Heat 91

In Orlando, Florida, Hedo Turkoglu had 27 points and 12 rebounds to lead Orlando over undermanned Miami.

Rashard Lewis scored 19 points and Orlando needed 12 consecutive points in the final quarter before pulling away from the Heat.

The Southeast Division-leading Magic have won the eight straight against the Sunshine State rivals.

The Heat played without Dwayne Wade, Shaquille O'Neal and Udonis Haslem, and lost its 17th game from 18, leaving it just half a game ahead of Minnesota, which has worst record in the NBA.

Raptors 122, Wizards 83

In Toronto, the home side matched its biggest win in team history by flogging Washington.

The Raptors used a big second quarter and a flurry of 3-pointers, with Andrea Bargnani scoring 19 points and Chris Bosh 16.

Thee 39-point margin of victory matched the 112-73 win over Atlanta in April 2002. The Raptors went 13-for-18 from 3-point range.

Toronto has won a season-high six straight at home and eight of 11 overall.

The Wizards were without injured forward Caron Butler for the second straight game.

76ers 112, Bucks 69

In Philadelphia, the home side recorded its largest win in 12 seasons at the Wachovia Center by dumping Milwaukee.

Andre Iguodala scored 18 points and Andre Miller had 14 for the Sixers, who won for only the fourth time in the past 15 games.

The Bucks were without leading scorer Michael Redd for the third straight game.

Jazz 100, Knicks 89

In Salt Lake City, Utah extended its winning streak to a season-high six games by beating New York.

Deron Williams had 22 points and 12 assists for his fifth straight double-double for the Jazz, who haven't trailed in their past two games. The Jazz won their 10th straight at home, despite letting a 17-point lead drop to three in the third quarter.

New York, which is 0-3 on a five-game trip. Starters Eddy Curry and Quentin Richardson left the game early in the first quarter through illness.

Nuggets 106, Grizzlies 102

In Memphis, Tennessee, Denver snapped a six-game road losing streak with victory over Memphis.

Denver used a late 12-0 run, while Allen Iverson had 32 points and 12 assists.

The Grizzlies have lost four of their past five.

Timberwolves 83, Bulls 67

In Minneapolis, Al Jefferson had 26 points and 20 rebounds to help Minnesota beat Chicago.

Ryan Gomes added 25 points and 10 boards for the Timberwolves, who may yet escape from having the league's worst record.

Chicago was just 5-for-17 from the field and the Bulls committed 22 turnovers and shot 33.3 percent.

Kings 105, Bobcats 91

In Sacramento, California, Brad Miller had 22 points and a career-high 21 rebounds to lead Sacramento over Charlotte.

Gerald Wallace, who played his first three seasons in Sacramento, had 25 points, six rebounds and five assists for the Bobcats.

Clippers 95, Hawks 88

In Los Angeles, the home side held off a furious late rally by Atlanta.

Rookie Al Thornton scored a season-high 33 points for the Clippers, who snapped a three-game losing streak and won for just the fifth time in their past 20 games.

The Hawks have dropped three straight. Atlanta trailed by 20 points with 7:17 remaining.

Clemens shows up at Astros camp

HOUSTON (AP)—Roger Clemens bounced up the steps of the Houston Astros dugout Wednesday morning and faced a group of wide-eyed minor leaguers that included his oldest son. For three relaxing hours at the team's minicamp, he was free from questions about steroid use, the Mitchell Report or his pending appearance before a congressional committee.

He was back in his element, baffling hitters with sliders and instructing pitchers on simple mechanics.

"I'm not going anywhere," he said. "I love to do these things. If I can share any insight with these young kids, it's all the better."

Clemens sidestepped questions about accusations he used performance-enhancing drugs, laid out in the Mitchell Report based on information from Brian McNamee, his former personal trainer.

The seven-time Cy Young Award winner has been invited to testify before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee for a deposition or transcribed statement next Tuesday and public testimony eight days later. McNamee and former teammates Andy Pettitte and Chuck Knoblauch also have been invited along with former Mets clubhouse attendant Kirk Radomski.

"I won't even discuss that," Clemens said. "We're handling that the right way. I've already done everything I've wanted to say, media-wise, on that."

Clemens said he was looking forward to meeting with the committee and reiterated the toll the allegations have taken on his family.

"I'm getting ready to go through the process," he said. "I get a chance to say my piece again. That's really all I can say. Everybody is doing well. We're grinding away and doing what we have to do."

Clemens, who pitched for the Astros from 2004-06, lives in Houston, and the Astros kept an open invitation for him to participate in the minicamp, a precursor to spring training next month. Clemens has a personal services contract with the team that starts following his retirement as a player.

Astros owner Drayton McLane said he was "pleasantly surprised" that Clemens attended the minicamp.

"He seemed to relax and enjoy himself," McLane said. "I think it really lifted the spirits of our young players. I visited with several of them and they said that was a great thrill."

Clemens' oldest son, Koby, is a catcher in the Astros farm system and is participating in the camp. Not even Koby was sure whether his father would show this week.

Clemens said the attention focused on him now was never going to deter him. He was planning to come back on Thursday.

"There was no decision," he said. "I was coming out whenever I could make time. This is what I enjoy doing."

Clemens threw for about 30 minutes from behind a screen. Most of the batters whiffed at least once, even after Clemens would call out what kind of pitch he was throwing.

Russ Dixon, an infielder, homered to right, then sheepishly put his head down to avoid eye contact with the pitcher.

"He was taking it easy on us," Dixon said. "I mean, I'd be lying if I said I wasn't trying to show my stuff. It's an exciting opportunity."

Koby launched the first pitch he saw from his father off the base of the right-field wall. Later, Clemens threw him a breaking ball and Koby swung and missed.

Brandon Backe, expected to start for the Astros this season, pitched when Clemens was finished. He threw about 40 pitches, then Clemens gave him advice off the mound on the first-base side.

Afterward, Clemens spoke to the minor leaguers in the Astros clubhouse.

"My biggest talk to them is, 'If you can handle failing, you're going to be all right, because you're going to do a lot of it,'" Clemens said. "You have to pick yourself up off the ground and go forward."

Mets meet with Santana's agent

NEW YORK (AP)—Johan Santana's agent and the New York Mets went to work on a contract extension Wednesday, the biggest step remaining for the team to complete its blockbuster trade with Minnesota.

Mets officials met with agent Peter Greenberg in Manhattan, but neither side would divulge many details. The two-time Cy Young Award winner is likely seeking a deal worth more than $120 million over six or seven years. He and the Mets have until 5 p.m. EST Friday to reach an agreement.

If that happens, as expected, Santana and the other players in the trade would then have to pass physicals for the swap to be finalized.

"Every team in the division became stronger, but now with Santana we're the favorites again," Mets left fielder Moises Alou said in the Dominican Republic.

The Mets have a good relationship with Greenberg, who already represents two of their players: All-Star shortstop Jose Reyes and reserve outfielder Endy Chavez.

New York general manager Omar Minaya declined comment through club spokesman Jay Horwitz. Greenberg didn't return e-mails seeking comment.

The Mets made a big splash Tuesday by reaching a tentative agreement to acquire Santana from the Twins for four prospects: speedy outfielder Carlos Gomez, and pitchers Philip Humber, Kevin Mulvey and Deolis Guerra.

The news energized Mets fans who were still upset about the team's historic collapse last September, and Minaya was lauded by baseball analysts around the country. Many had thought New York would have to give up more to land the ace left-hander.

"I can't really comment because it's not done. All I can say is that the Twins did what they had to do," New York Yankees senior vice president Hank Steinbrenner said in Tampa, Fla. "I hope it works out well for them. The Mets made a good trade from their end. Hopefully it works out for both teams."

Earlier this offseason, the Yankees also pursued Santana. They offered pitcher Phil Hughes and center fielder Melky Cabrera as part of a package, then pulled out of talks during the winter meetings in December.

The World Series champion Boston Red Sox also made a bid for Santana, proposing a deal that would have included outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury or pitcher Jon Lester.

Santana, who turns 29 in March, can become a free agent after this year's World Series and the Twins don't have the budget to re-sign him. Minnesota offered him an $80 million, four-year extension this offseason, but he turned it down.

Even without Santana, the Mets already have sold 1.75 million tickets for their final season in Shea Stadium, up 100,000 from this point last year, when they finished at a team-record 3.85 million.

"To have one of those handful that I would call an ace is obviously special to a team that, offensively, we look good on paper," Mets third baseman David Wright said Tuesday. "And our pitching staff is very deep, especially with these young guys, and they're only going to get better. So obviously there's a lot of positive energy, if it's true, going into spring training."

FIBA Oceania adopts new logo

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipan tribune.com
REPORTER

With 2008 marking its 40th year of existence, FIBA Oceania adopted a new logo that best represents its accomplishments throughout the region.

According to the FIBA Oceania website and in an email by Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands secretary general Michael A. White, the logo will be used by the organization in 2008.

The logo, which has a basketball player attempting to dunk the ball with the number 40 as its background, were sent to the 21-member federations of FIBA Oceania with a request to use the logo throughout the year.

The Oceania was the last zone to be organized and was admitted to the FIBA family during the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City. The other FIBA regions are Africa, Americas, Asia, and Europe.

Since its creation in 1968, FIBA Oceania has represented the 21-member federations' interests at the international level. "And has provided a pathway for elite teams from the zone to participate at the highest level of international competition," said in the FIBA Oceania website.

Teams from Oceania before played against Asian teams in Olympic and World Championships qualifying games.

FIBA Oceania officials also hope to make basketball the most played sport in the Pacific by 2010.

FIBA Oceania Administration and Special projects director Judy Smith said the member federations can now use the logo in their letterheads, competition draws, posters, and other correspondence.

The new adopted log is just in time for this year's FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament where eight countries will be competing in the men's and women's divisions from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4 in Guam.

Aside from host Guam, the other competing nations are Australia, the CNMI, Palau, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji.

The 2008 FIBA Oceania Under-19 Youth Basketball Tournament was originally scheduled to take place from July 12 to 20 but was pushed back.

The eight competing teams are limited to only 13 members composed of 10 players, one coach, one manager, and one referee. If a participating country fields teams in both divisions, they are entitled to bring in an additional person as head of their delegation.

Host Guam will provide accommodations, transport going to and from the hotels and game venue, and meals for all the teams. Teams need to have a qualified and experienced referee in order to be accepted in the tournament.

Top performers and best players in the tournament will be selected to become members of the Oceania men's and women's All-Star teams that will join the Australian Under-18 National Championships in February 2009. All-Star coaches and referees will also be selected in the Guam competition.

Players who are qualified to join the Under-19 youth tournament are those born starting Jan. 1, 1989. Australia and New Zealand will also be competing in the Guam tournament.

Aside from Guam, American Samoa, Fiji, and Samoa bid to host the 2008 FIBA Oceania Under-19 Youth Basketball Tournament.

The 2008 FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament will be the 7th edition of the event, which began in 1997 in Fiji. New Caledonia (1998), Vanuatu (200), Tonga (20002), Australia (2004), and New Zealand (2006) also hosted the tournament.

Aguon: Refs undergo rigid selection

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipan tribune.com
REPORTER

Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands Referee Association president Rufino Aguon assured everyone that individuals who become certified referees underwent a rigid training and selection process.

Aguon, in an email, said BANMI has been following the FIBA Oceania certification process in selecting game officials that will join the current pool of referees.

He and BANMI president Elias Rangamar are the certified trainers and interested applicants must first go through a 30-hour clinic that covers the rules, court coverage, and other items concerning basketball.

Aguon added applicants must also pass a written test and earn a good evaluation on four actual games before they become certified BANMI referees. The passing grade for the written test is 75 percent. "Certification goes from Level 0, 1C, 1B, 1A, and then Level I for us here. To go any higher, we must go through FIBA [Oceania]."

Aguon said anyone interested in becoming a referee can join. "But it's easier [for] people that have basketball background. [Either] as a player, coach, or has been involved in the game."

A referee that has gone through the classroom and court clinics, then passed the exams would be certified at a certain level. "The more games they officiate and have been evaluated [by BANMI officials] then they could be elevated to higher level. All referees [in the CNMI] are all certified," said Aguon.

Aguon

He added BANMI has been doing numerous steps in order to upgrade and update the referees on the latest FIBA rules. "Referees are being constantly evaluated since the association was formed last year.

"We hold periodical meetings to discuss new or if there is a change of rules to ensure we are working together as team."

Aguon said a referee that receives a bad evaluation is a major concern to their group. "[This] concern is presented to the association and we ensure that it is addressed. It is our goal to be fair and professional at all times.

Aside from Aguon, other BANMI referees association officials are Arnold Mesa, vice president; Abner Venus, secretary; and Mike White, treasurer.

BANMI referees meeting set next week

The Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands will have a referees meeting on Feb. 7, Thursday, at 6:30pm at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium.

On top of the agenda is the group's financial report and the BANMI-Budweiser Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League, which will hold its championship game today.

Rock Steady, which is composed mostly of players from defending champion CNMI Men's National Team, will face the Saipan Stevedore Suns in today's Game 1 and if necessary Game 2 will be played tomorrow. Both games are scheduled at 7pm.

Other ongoing and planned basketball leagues will also be discussed as well as the wearing of team uniforms. An election of officers will also take place in the meeting.

BANMI officials will also tackle the issue on the players' concerns about officiating. ***(Jon Perez)***

Talk 'N Text picks Chot Reyes to coach team for 3 years

MANILA, Philippines—Among all the things said about Talk 'N Text, intensity—the lack thereof—has been the biggest reason why the rock-solid Phone Pals have lost the way they did in the past years.

Enter Vincent "Chot" Reyes.

The firebrand national team mentor agreed to a three-year deal with Talk 'N Text on Sunday, bringing with him one of the most documented and tested work ethics and intensity to the team most considered to have underachieved in the past.

"We simply think that he is the best person to inspire our team," said Talk 'N Text board representative Ricky Vargas during a briefing with select members of the media at the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) offices late Monday night.

"I did my due diligence and I was witness to how hard he works," Vargas added. "We are going to be a high-performance team."

The Phone Pals failed to make it past the wild card phase of the ongoing Philippine Cup and management decided last week not to renew the pact of coach Derrick Pumaren and explore talks with Reyes.

"I have to make them believe that they (Phone Pals) can win again," Reyes said. "Losing can become a habit and with losing, everything goes haywire."

Reyes' contract is the longest that Talk 'N Text, or since Manny V. Pangilinan brought the franchise from Pepsi in 1998, has given any coach. The former Ateneo de Manila University stalwart in the UAAP will become the franchise's eighth coach overall.

And the guaranteed tenure came as a surprise, since Talk 'N Text management has been known to have asked for nothing less than the championship from its previous coaches before giving them the pink slip.

"Every tournament, our objective will be to win the championship," Reyes told the Philippine Daily Inquirer when pressed to give a timetable. "But that will never be our focus, our focus will be to be the hardest-working, best-conditioned team, and then winning will come later."

The Phone Pals will be Reyes' sixth team after stints with Purefoods, Sta. Lucia Realty, Pop Cola, Coca-Cola and briefly with San Miguel before being asked to handle the national team last year. ***(PDI)***

SUNS-ROCK

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after beating the Sonics.

The Sonics' loss earned them the right to face the Suns for the last championship spot.

What was expected to be a close contest, after the Sonics escaped with a 72-68 win over the Suns last Oct. 17, became a rout after the Southern crew's starters and coach Jesse Tudela failed to make it just in time.

Tudela along with starters Manuel Ajoste, Jason Bahillo, and Lerio Pagarao, and off-the-bench players Ernest Duenas and Mike Eclevia where still playing for the Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays in the MISO basketball league.

Both games where played on the same day where the Rays escaped with a 59-58 win over the Marianas High School Dolphins at MHS Gymnasium. As soon as the game at MHS gym ended, Tudela and his core unit started arriving at the Ada gym but the Sonics where trailing, 25-51, at halftime.

That lead ballooned further to 30 points, 81-51, in the early goings of the fourth period before the Sonics trimmed it to 16, 73-89, with more than three minutes left in the contest.

That was when the Suns showed nerves of steel and did not panic against the Sonics' relentless attack. They also got a lot of help from the Sonics' poor outside shooting as Ajoste, Lim, and Pagarao missed their 3-point attempts that could have helped keep the game close in the closing minutes of the fourth period.

If statistics were only recorded, the Sonics' could have shot less than 20 percent from downtown with Pagarao making only two, while Ajoste had one late in the third quarter.

Elmer Esdrelon scored a season-high 26 points to lead the Suns' scoring, while Ed Diaz and Jawn Joyner chipped in 25 and 21 markers.

Tim Wesley and Steve Rasa combined for 15 points but played tough defense against the Sonics' scorers. Most of the time, Wesley and Rasa were glued to the ones they were defending as they never let them out of their sight and did not gave them open or good looks at the basket.

Manuel Ajoste and Pagarao, who both played most of the second half, scored 19 and 17 points for the Sonics, while Lim, who was left defending the Sonics' pride in the first half, ended up with 13.

Saipan Stevedore Suns 99 – Esdrelon 26, Diaz 25, Joyner 21, Wesley 8, Rasa 7, Aaron 4, Baculod 4, Palacios 4.

Southern Sonics 81 – M. Ajoste 19, L. Pagarao 17, Lim 13, Nedlic 9, Mendiola 8, Apelo 7, O. Ajoste 4, Eclevia 3.

Scoring by quarters: 18-10, 51-25, 74-49, 97-81.

POHNPEIIANS

From Page 44

who created the league decided to fix the press box since it is already infested with termites.

"We [PASL officials] along with [several] team players decided to help out our government in [completing] the needed repairs," said Hicking, who added that they replaced the door and door jam.

They later worked on the rest of the termite-infested wood by replacing the materials with treated anti-termite chemicals that could last longer. "We also added some of the treated dirt for the fields that has pot-holes."

The Pohnpeii community officers are Alkantro Sarapio, president; Frank Shiro, vice president; Jean Luzama, secretary; and Edwina Cruz and Arnold Toute, treasurers.

The sports committee is led by chairman Mark Palacios, Helliew Kelley, vice chair, and Anthony Luzama, head official.

Games resume on Sunday with undefeated Wakaz and Keper aiming to win its third straight game when they go up against OHSA and Palau at 11am and 1pm. Winless P-4 and Young Guns clash in the 12noon contest, while Bradahz battle Just Right in the 2pm match.

At 3pm it will be the co-ed league's turn to take the field with P-4 playing against Keper, while Ohn Sakau takes on Young Guns in the 4pm second game.

No games will be played on Feb. 10 to give way for the mid-season home run derby starting at 11am.

TWO

From Page 44

calmly. Good thing I brought my small flashlight that day, because it was very dark inside," he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*. "I shot the wrasse very close to below the eye, the spear ending in its brain, but my shaft did not penetrate all the way out. It took me and Tony Roberts about 30 minutes with Tony securing the fish with a heart shot. My shaft turned into a big hook."

Sasamoto said he found the 102-pounder fours days later at about six feet from the entrance of the same cave.

"This time I shot it behind the eye and it made less of a struggle, but like the recent one it made my shaft turn into a big hook," he said.

Sasamoto said tangisons commonly swim in deep water from 70 feet to 120 feet. He said it was just his luck that the two fish were swimming in 55 feet of water and he chased them to shallow water.

"The thing about this fish is that you have to know their behavior, in the past I already shot about 12 of them, but they weighed from 12 lbs. to 80 lbs. those were the biggest ones I caught in the past and I caught them from 60 feet up to 80 feet. Imagine going down 80 feet, that is very deep for a free diver to bring up a 40-lb. fish to the surface."

According to www.wikipedia.org, Napoleon wrasse (Cheilinus undulatus) is a wrasse that is mainly found in coral reefs in the Indo-Pacific region.

It is also known as humphead wrasse, Maori wrasse, or Napoleonfish. Cantonese refer to it as "So Mei" and Filipinos "Mameng." It is commonly known for literally attacking and eating Crown-of-Thorns star fish.

Napoleon wrasse is the largest living member of the family Labridae, with males reaching six feet (two meters) in length although females rarely exceed about three feet (one meter). It has thick, fleshy lips and a hump that forms on its head above the eyes, becoming more prominent as the fish ages.

Males range from a bright electric blue to green, a purplish blue, or a relatively dull blue/green. Juveniles and females are red-orange above, and red-orange to white below.

Some males grow very large, with one unconfirmed report of a Napoleon wrasse that was 229cm long and weighed 190.5 kg.

BEACH

From Page 44

the Pacific Islands Club sand courts.

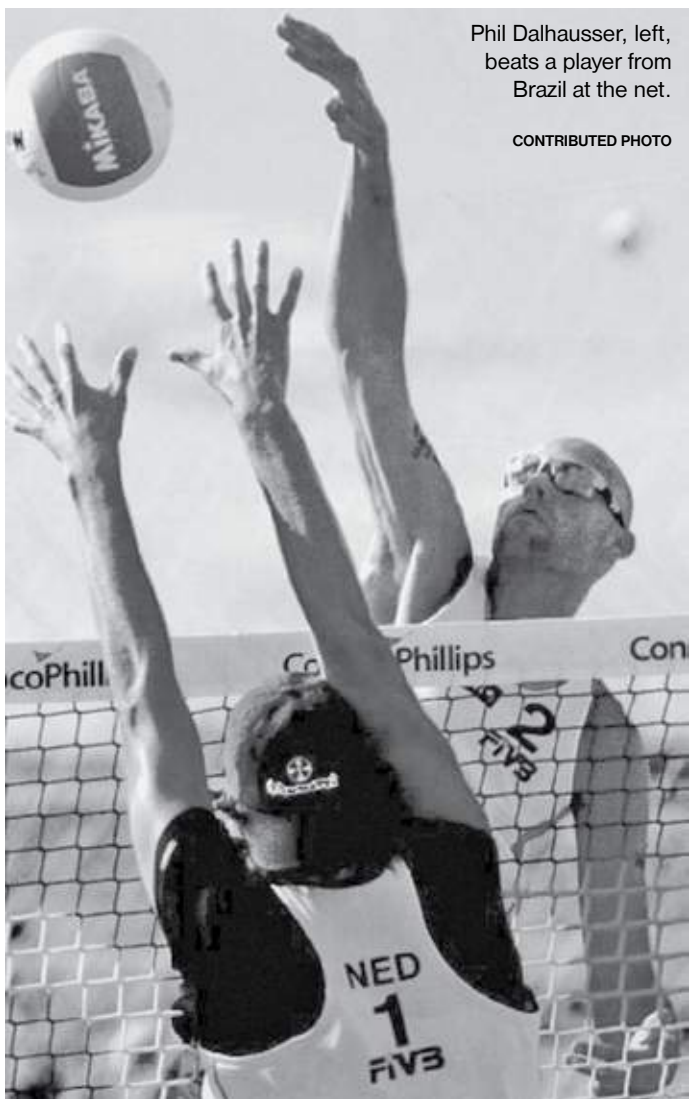
Phil Dalhausser leads the cast of pros that signed up for the three-day beach volleyball festival that also attracted returning pros from Japan and first time competitors from the U.S. and South Korea.

Dalhausser returns after skipping last year's tournament and will again team up with Paul Baxter when they go up against Shinya Hata and new partner Yoshiumi Hasegawa in an exhibition game on Friday, Feb. 22.

The Japanese duo will be on for a tough time against the American pair since Dalhausser is a three-time AVP best offensive player from 2005 to 2007 and was also named most improved player by AVP and the FIVB in 2006.

Dalhausser, who was the 2007 AVP most valuable player, also won the 2007 AVP Crocs Cup Champion with teammate Todd Rogers where they also won the 2007 AVP team of the year.

He was also a two-time FIVB best blocker in 2006 and 2007 and was the 2007 FIVB best hitter.



Phil Dalhausser, left, beats a player from Brazil at the net.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The women's match will feature U.S. pros Jenn Snyder and Janelle Koester against Korean pair Jeeyeun Han and Ji Youn June.

This will also mark the first time that organizers will hold a youth tournament at Managaha Island. TASI Tours will provide transportation and food to all participants. The deadline for submission of entries is on Feb. 14.

The 14-and-under tournament will be a four-person event, while the Under-17 division is a two-person match. Aside from the exhibition two-person matches in the men's and women's divisions, the professionals will also hold clinics during the three-day Marianas Cup.

More than 90 players from Hawaii, California, Japan, Guam, Korea, Italy, Russia, and the CNMI have already participated in the Marianas Cup in the last three years.

The event is approved by the FIVB and USA Volleyball and is listed in the FIVB website as a country-against-country tournament.

Japan's Shigekazu Fujimatsu and Daisuke Matsumoto won last year's edition beating Saki Naivana and J.R. Rosetti in the finals.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	35	8	.814	_
Toronto	25	20	.556	11
New Jersey	19	26	.422	17
Philadelphia	18	28	.391	18 1/2
New York	14	31	.311	22

Southeast Division

Orlando	29	18	.617	_
Washington	24	20	.545	3 1/2
Atlanta	18	24	.429	8 1/2
Charlotte	18	28	.391	10 1/2
Miami	9	35	.205	18 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	32	13	.711	_
Cleveland	25	19	.568	6 1/2
Indiana	19	27	.413	13 1/2
Chicago	18	27	.400	14
Milwaukee	18	29	.383	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	32	13	.711	_
Dallas	31	13	.705	1/2
San Antonio	28	16	.636	3 1/2
Houston	25	20	.556	7
Memphis	13	33	.283	19 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	28	18	.609	_
Denver	27	18	.600	1/2
Portland	26	19	.578	1 1/2
Seattle	10	35	.222	17 1/2
Minnesota	9	36	.200	18 1/2

Pacific Division

Phoenix	33	13	.717	_
L.A. Lakers	28	15	.651	3 1/2
Golden State	28	19	.596	5 1/2
Sacramento	20	24	.455	12
L.A. Clippers	14	28	.333	17

Yesterday's Games

Orlando 107, Miami 91
Philadelphia 112, Milwaukee 69
Toronto 122, Washington 83
Denver 106, Memphis 102
Minnesota 83, Chicago 67
Golden State 116, New Orleans 103
Utah 100, New York 89
Cleveland 84, Portland 83
Sacramento 105, Charlotte 91
L.A. Clippers 95, Atlanta 88

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

PASL Standings

Men's Division

Keper	2	0
PTI	2	0
Wakaz	2	-0
Just Right	1	1
OHSA	1	1
Bradahz	0	1
Palau	0	1
P-4	0	2
Young Guns	0	2

Co-ed Division

Ohn Sakau	2	0
Keper	1	1
Young Guns	1	1
P-4	0	2

Rota Classic draws 98 golfers

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Ninety-eight golfers took part in the Rota Golf Classic held last Sunday at Rota Resort on the CNMI's southernmost island.

The brightest of them all on the golf course turned out to be local boy Vince Hocog, as he won the double Peoria category with a net score of 69.6. Hocog shot a 44-40 in the front and back for a gross of 84. He was assigned a 14.4 handicap.

Two Saipan lady golfers finished second and third in the weekend competition, as Sadako Adachi's net 70 (46-42, 88) and Noriko Togawa's net 70.2 (43-38, 81) were enough to place them in the money list.

Hocog, Adachi, and Togawa were rewarded $1,000, $500, $250, respectively, for their supreme efforts Sunday.

Thirteen other golfers from Saipan took on the challenge on Rota: Aya Matsumoto (43-42, gross 85, net 71.8), Alex Tudela (46-45, 91, 71.8), Manny Alvarez (42-42, 84, 72.0), retired Judge Edward Manibusan (37-40, 77, 72.1), Terry Tudela (43-43, 86, 72.8), Nick Sablan (41-44, 85, 73.0), Jess Wabol (37-35, 72, 73.2), Adam Hardwicke (35-37, 72, 73.2), Bill Kaipat (42-43, 85, 74.2), Andy Nepaial (44-45, 89, 75.8), Ed Tenorio (44-42, 86, 77.6), Brett Nelson (54-49, 103, 77.8), and Don Dunlop (43-45, 88, 78.4).

In the low gross category, Hardwicke and Wabol finished second and third to Guam's Lou Sunga, who came away with a pre-handicap score of 68 (34-34). As previously indicated Hardwicke and Wabol both fired 72s with the former taking second place on a scorecard tiebreak. The three won $500, $250, $150 for topping the low gross category.

In the closest to the pin, Sunga won hole No. 3 and took home a Mizuno iron set, while Wabol was without peer in hole No. 12. He won a Mizuno golf bag.

RGA February Ace qualifier this Sunday

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold its February Ace of the Month Qualifier this coming Sunday, Feb. 3, at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

The first qualifier of RGA's 2008 season will have a check-in time of 12am with tee time set an hour later at 1pm. A maximum of 16 players can be accommodated.

Because of time constraints, the club didn't hold a qualifier last month and went straight to the January Ace, which was won by junior golfer Luis Byun.

In related news, RGA president "emeritus" and current tournament director Jess Wabol reiterated his call for new members to sign up for the 2008 season.

He said the club has already halved its membership dues for 2008 from the long-standing fee of $50 to only $25.

Wabol said this happened after RGA recognized the hard economic times and decided to give its members and future members a break by slashing the cost of becoming part of RGA.

He said he hopes by making membership in RGA a little lighter in the pocket, more weekend warriors will now return to the golf links and renew their membership or apply as new members of the golf club.

Wabol added that RGA is also instituting a new promotion this year wherein members who take part in at least 10 rounds by the time the annual RGA Turkey Shoot in November comes around, will get free entry into the tournament.

For more information about RGA's upcoming February Ace of the Month Qualifier, new membership policies, and other competitions held by the club, contact RGA president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926 or Wabol at 233-3673. ***(Mark Rabago)***

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0202 Erika Tubera
0203 John Huevos
0204 Judy Anne Sanchez
0205 Lizelle Salanga
0206 Luouibelle Lavetoria
0207 Miguel Andrei Aninon
0208 Mozelle Campo
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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:
FEB. 01, 2008 – FRIDAY FOOD FAIR
6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
Performances from the 9 to 13 years old category
FEB. 08, 2008 – FRIDAY FOOD FAIR
6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
Competition for the 4 to 9 years old category
Top 3 winners to be announced
FEB. 15, 2008 – FRIDAY FOOD FAIR
6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
Competition for the 9 to 13 years old category
Top 3 winners to be announced
FEB. 22, 2008 – FRIDAY FOOD FAIR
6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
SHOWDOWN of the Top 3 winners of the two categories
Text votes results back to zero
FEB. 29, 2008
FRIDAY FOOD FAIR
6PM Lobby of Saipan Grand Hotel
GRAND FINALS
Category 2: 10 to 13 years old
0209 Annabel Manzo
0210 Carmela Lumbad
0211 Darren John Cajipo
0212 Maria Christine Castro
0213 Mary Antoinette Alovera
0214 Matthew Lopez
0215 Mikee Campo
0216 Noemi Benig
0217 Rizza Butalon
0218 Shandel Denice Cayabyab
0219 Sharmaine Cano
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FIBA Oceania adopts new logo

With 2008 marking its 40th year of existence, FIBA Oceania adopted a new logo that best represents its accomplishments throughout the region.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Brady surprised by Burress' prediction

3-17. Just 17 points for the potent Patriots. A certain MVP quarterback thinks that's a Super-sized diss.

39

Suns-Rock Steady finals set

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saipan Stevedore Suns and Rock Steady will meet for the third time this season, but this time a lot more will be at stake since they will be playing for the BANMI-Budweiser Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League championship.

The Suns arranged a title showdown with Rock Steady after cruising to a 99-81 thrashing of the Southern Sonics in their knockout playoff match for the last championship berth Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Rock Steady holds a psychological edge over the Suns after beating them twice this season. The first one was a 101-91 overtime win last Oct. 28, which is part of their second-best 10-2 record.

They met again in the second round of the playoffs where Rock Steady prevailed anew, 98-90, to earn a spot in the semifinals. The Suns knocked out the CNMI Junior Nationals, while Rock Steady earned the first finals berth

See SUNS-ROCK on Page 42

JON PEREZ
Ed Diaz of the Saipan Stevedore Suns tries to score at the baseline in their playoff game against the Southern Sonics Wednesday night in the BANMI-Budweiser Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Two giant tangisons in five days for Felix

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Felix Sasamoto Jr., left, and Tony Roberts pose with the 99.06-lb. Napoleon wrasse they caught last Friday, Jan. 25, off the waters of Obyan Beach.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Felix Sasamoto Jr. with the 120-lb. fish locals call *tangison* caught four days later on Jan. 29.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Two-time gold medalist of the 2008 Saipan Micronesian Games Felix T. Sasamoto Jr. created quite a stir these past several days when he successfully harpooned two giant Napoleon wrasses while spearfishing at Obyan Beach.

Total weight of the two behemoth fish, called tangison in Chamorro, is a whopping 201.06 lbs.

Sasamoto first caught a 99.06-lb. Napoleon wrasse last Friday, Jan. 25, at around 9am, and lo and behold, four days later on Tuesday, Jan. 29, on or about 9:30am he followed it up by snaring a 102-lb. tangison.

Surprisingly, Sasamoto said the 99-pounder was harder to catch than the heavier fish. He said he harpooned the first tangison exactly 43 feet inside a cave that had an L-type entrance.

"It lead me about 12 feet from the cave's entrance to were the wrasse was just laying very

See TWO on Page 42

Beach volleyball pros return for Marianas Cup

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Eight professional beach volleyball players will again grace the 16th Annual Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival, which is Micronesia's longest-running beach volleyball event.

The event will start with a 14-and-under and 17-and-under beach volleyball tournaments on Feb. 16 and 17 at Managaha Island. The Marianas Cup will be held from Feb. 22 to 24 at

See BEACH on Page 42

Pohnpeiians fix press box at Capital Hill baseball field

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Dolorina Panuelo and a buddy rake the trash that they collected.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipan tribune.com
REPORTER

The Pohnpeiian community on Saipan volunteered their time and resources to fix the press box at the Capital Hill Baseball Field last Sunday since games in their softball league are being held there every week.

Pohnpeii Amateur Softball League secretary Albert Hicking said their games are being played every Sunday and 13 teams have been competing since they opened the season last month. Two divisions are being played every week, namely, men's and co-ed.

Hicking said the Pohnpeii community along with volunteers

See POHNPEIIANS on Page 42